

Tower of Pulp: In-class Activity and Homework

Learning Objectives: experience and reflect on teamwork and design process, use Gantt chart,

Completed by teams

In class:

You have been commissioned to design a tower from paper and tape. Each team will be given:

- 8 sheets of paper, and
- some tape.

In class, your towers must be designed and built in 20 minutes. The contract will be awarded to the team that designs that tallest freestanding tower that is capable of withstanding hurricane-force winds generated by your instructor. Nothing can be taped to the ground (you must be able to pick up your tower and move it).

One last restriction: You can only speak during the first 4 minutes of this project and then again between minutes 10:00 and 12:00 you can speak for 2 minutes. Other than that, no speaking or writing is allowed.

For Discussion:

Observation:

Each group should discuss a description of the process they used to design and build their tower. You must describe this process in words and also graphically with a Gantt chart.

Reflection:

You should address what you think is good about the process you used and also what you would change if you were to do this project again. You do not need to address what you would change about your tower itself – focus on analyzing what you would change/not change about the process you used to build your tower.

Your Learning Journal entry for this week:

(completed individually)

Observe and reflect on how your team is starting to work together on activities like the Tower of Pulp exercise and sorting the cards. What role do you see yourself taking often? Are you comfortable with this and why or why not? Are there roles that your group seems to be lacking that are important? Have you had any communication problems yet and how can you overcome those? Comment on an activity you think would help you form together as a team with specific details on how to execute this.

If you are not sure what to write about, here are some suggestions to get you started:

How did you decide how to proceed?

Who took the lead? Did anyone?

Who did most of the building?

How was communication handled?