



Odyssey of the Mind[®]

2005 ASSOCIATION FINALS

Verbal Spontaneous Problem: OMER'S TRUCKIN'

- A. *When the team members enter the room, tell them, "This is a verbal problem. You have 1 minute to select the five team members who will compete. The others must sit in these seats and watch (indicate seats) or leave the room. They may not participate in any way."*
- B. **JUDGE READS TO TEAMS:** (Do not read material in parentheses.)
- (1) You have 1 minute to think and 4 minutes to respond. You can ask the judges questions; however, time will continue. You cannot talk to each other at any time.
 - (2) You will receive 1 point for each common response and 5 points for each creative response.
 - (3) Each of you has 6 cards. You will take turns in order. **After you give a response, you will place one of your cards in the container.**
 - (4) Speak loudly and clearly. Once time begins, it will not be stopped, even if the judge asks you to repeat a response, or to clarify it, or to give a more appropriate response.
 - (5) You may not skip your turn. If one member of the team is stuck, the team is stuck.
 - (6) You will be finished when response time ends or when you have used all of your cards.
 - (7) There is an OMER beanie doll and a toy truck on the table. You may pick them up, improvise with them, and position them (*demonstrate to the team*) but you must not damage them.
 - (8) **Your problem is to say something about one or both of them.** For example, you might say place the truck on OMER and say, "That must hurt."
 - (9) When you are finished giving your response you must hand them to the next team member or place them on the table.

(Repeat items in boldface. Begin by saying, "I repeat.")

C. FOR JUDGES ONLY:

1. Judges should discuss and practice solving the problem before the first team competes. You may make decisions that are uniform to each team.
2. Place two copies of the Team's Copy in full view of all team members before you read the problem to them. They may refer to them during the competition.
3. Give each team member one set of 6 cards. Each set should be different from the others, such as different colors, or marked with different shapes, etc. Make sure team members surrender a card after each response.
4. Place a container within reach of all team members. Make sure it has an opening large enough for the cards to fit through and that it can hold all 30 cards.
5. Use a beanie OMER and a toy truck that is 8"-12" long. If the vehicle has any identifying marks, be sure to discuss possible responses that incorporate those marks before the first team competes.
6. Be sure to give the team exactly 1 minute to think and 4 minutes to respond. Timing is critical. Team members responding as time ends may finish and be scored.
7. Score 1 point for each common response and 5 points for each creative response. Judges' opinions will vary as to what is common or creative. This is okay, but be sure judges make consistent decisions for each team when scoring.
8. **Examples of Common Responses:**
 - ☺ *OMER-only comments:* He's cute; He's furry; I love OMER; Nice shirt.
 - ☺ *Truck-only comments:* Cool truck; Does it run on batteries; I have a truck just like that one; Does it carry a spare tire?
 - ☺ *OMER in/on Truck:* Where did he get his license? He's not old enough to drive; Don't crash; It's not a good time to get creative, OMER!
 - ☺ *OMER under the Truck:* It's heavy; Do I look like a road to you; My clothes are getting dirty; Why would anyone run over OMER; That's gonna leave a mark; He needs truck-driving lessons.
 - ☺ *OMER pushing the truck:* This is hard; Don't hit the breaks; Where's the gas station?
 - ☺ *Miscellaneous:* He's hitchhiking; Can I have a ride; Let's go off-roading; He's too big for the truck; OMER's softer than the truck.
9. **Examples of Creative Responses:**
 - ☺ *OMER in/on truck:* Now that's a Stunt Mobile; He's going to World Finals; Buy a truck and get a free mascot; Where's my chauffeur?
 - ☺ *OMER under the truck:* Looks like a spontaneous problem to me; He's playing "speed bump" again; That truck is squeezing the stuffing out of OMER; I told you I could bench press this truck; How long can we float on OMER; This is the last time I sleep in the road.
 - ☺ *OMER pushing the truck:* I'm an environment-friendly mascot; Don't forget to include this outside assistance on your form; OMER's getting exhaust-ed; OMER looks tire-d.
 - ☺ *Miscellaneous:* Thanks for the truck, now for my second wish... Quick, to the OMER mobile!

NOTE: If the team gives a response very similar to a previous one, count it as common and then declare any other responses that are basically the same as a repeat.

TEAM'S COPY

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