

Introduction

The basic premise of these group tasks is that they are fun to both participate in and to deliver. The tasks have been developed over a number of years from two differing perspectives:

- * as practical tasks for teaching project management and
- * as part of induction programmes to encourage people to work together prior to beginning FE or HE courses of study.

The tasks have been successfully used with people whose ages range from 16 to 65:

As part of an HND Induction programme, which takes place throughout an entire week, they were the catalyst by which the new students became familiar with each other and with members of staff who participate in the event. Many HND programmes of study currently include project work/assignments, the project management aspect of these exercises provides an excellent introduction to the topic.

At one college, where these group tasks have been developed and applied, all new courses of fulltime students carry out some of these activities as part of a whole induction week. Members of the teaching staff are also expected to participate. The final result is that the academic year begins in a much more positive light where students and staff have met, had fun and now know how to work together successfully.

Leading the Activities

For these activities to be successful it is essential for the event leader to 'set the scene' and to encourage everyone to take an active role. As the introduction to the tasks is centred around project management basic methodology, it is recommended, though by no means compulsory, that whoever leads the event should have a basic knowledge of working on projects.

The Activities

In this pack there are two mind warm-up exercises and three activities; one small introductory activity and two larger activities. The general idea is that the introductory activity and one of the larger activities will constitute a full day of events. This will obviously leave you with another, similar yet differing, event for use on day two.

The Introductory Activity

The aim of this activity is to empty a box of pens or chalk, place them neatly in a row and then return them to the box. Each team member must participate.

You will need to buy the pack to find out the fun part