Teaching Communications and Teamwork in Math... with LEGO!

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Activities Used

1. Communication Strategies
2. Presentations
3. Reflective Writing
4. Workshops on Business Skills

And many others!
1. Communication Strategies

What on earth does LEGO® have to do with communication strategies?
1. Communication Strategies

- Phase 1: Written only
  - Success rate: 3/18
- Phase 2: Verbal only
  - Success rate: 9/18
- Phase 3: Through an intermediary
  - Success rate: 15/18 (and the rest very close!)
1. Communication Strategies

- Discussion of strategies after each round

- Reflective paper on experience
2. Presentations

- Articles
  - Identify 3 well-written current articles
  - Verbal presentation
  - Surprise variable length
  - Structured peer Q&A

- Persuasive presentations
  - Convince the class of something
  - Verbal plus slides
  - Huge variety of topics chosen!
3. Reflective Writing

- Presentation Analysis
  - Videotaped their presentations
  - Reflect on their own delivery skills

- Portfolio Review
  - All writing/presentation assignments
  - Discuss how they developed as communicators
4. Business Skills Workshops

- Decision-making
  - Make a decision, then revise given new data
- Teamwork
  - Escape room in a box
- Project management
  - PERT chart and start date estimation
- Negotiation
  - Buy/sell a house
  - Negotiate a deal b/w actuaries & marketing
Student Outcomes

- Presentation skills improved dramatically
- Increased confidence
- Teamwork
- Continuous self improvement
- Excited to start careers
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