



Materials

- Typing Paper
- Paper Clips
- Tape
- Measuring Performance Score Sheet
- Books (for variation)



Preparation

- Each team should receive a large quantity of paper, tape, and paper clips.
- Print one Measuring Performance Score Sheet for each team.
- Provide each team with books for variation

Eating & Settling-In (15 min)

Focus (5 min)

Students are to construct a tower made of paper, paper clips, and tape.

Mini-Lesson/Modeling (20 min)

- Build a small tower out of the materials while explaining the rules of the project:
You cannot tape the tower to anything else (like a wall or a chair or the ground).
The tower should be at least 18" in height.
You cannot use materials other than: Typing Paper and Paper Clips/Tape.
If doing variation, demonstrate how to build a tower capable of supporting weight.



Small Group/Independent Work Time (40 min)

- Design Phase (10 Minutes) - For ten minutes, groups will verbally plan the construction of their towers. They may not make any drawings or manipulate materials in any way during this planning period.
- Production Phase (30 Minutes) - Start building the tower.
- Each team must choose a "volunteer" to judge all the towers after they have all been constructed.

Variation

- Students build a tower which is able to support the weight of multiple books.
- Teams collaborate on a design and build a tower using paper and tape as building supplies.
- Towers are tested by applying the weight of one book at a time until the tower is unable to support the weight.
- The tower supporting the most books "wins."

Presentations (15 min)

Students provide a brief presentation analyzing their approach to the paper tower design. Answer these questions:

Describe the overall theme of your tower design.

Describe how you coordinated the planning/building effort.

Reflection/Closing (10 min)

Discuss what worked for the "winning" towers (tallest, aesthetically pleasing, stable, held the most weight). What techniques were successful?

Clean-Up (10 min)



