



Scrambled Sentences

This protocol was developed in the field by educators affiliated with NSRF.

1. Divide larger group into smaller groups of six people.
2. Have each group choose one person as the judge/observer. This person's role is to make sure that all participants adhere to the rules and to record what they observe during the activity.
3. Each smaller group will receive a set of five envelopes containing individual words on cards that they will have to form into five meaningful sentences.
4. Give the following instructions:
"Working in small groups, I would like you to put together some meaningful sentences. This is not as easy as it sounds. I am giving each of you an envelope that contains individual words on cards. Please do not open the envelopes until I tell you to begin. Distributed among the five of you are the words to make five meaningful sentences. Each one of you needs to assemble one sentence in front of you. The first word of each sentence has been capitalized. The task is not complete until each person in the group has formed a meaningful sentence. You may give cards to the other members of the group, but no member may speak. You may not ask for a card any other member has; you must wait for that member to give it to you. You must observe the following rules while putting together your sentences and the judge/observers have the job of strictly enforcing these rules:
 - Each of you must construct a meaningful sentence directly in front of yourself.
 - You may not ask for a word card from another person. This means no talking, gesturing, motioning, or signaling in any other way to get a word card from any other member of your group. The only way you can get a word card from another person is for that person to give it to you.
 - You may pass any of your word cards to any other group member at any time. You do not need to wait for a "turn".
 - No member is to talk at any time. The only person who may talk is the judge/observer, who can only interrupt only to stop a violation of the rules. The observer may not make suggestions to the players.
5. Clarify any questions members have and have them begin the work

To prepare the materials, write one word on a card and place the word cards in the envelopes as follows:

1. Spring, begun, eager, into
2. here, blinded, have, dashed, the
3. is, The, start, reading, The
4. sunlight, barking, I'm, cat, house
5. The, me, dogs, to

The unscrambled sentence are:

1. Spring is here.

2. The sunlight blinded me.
3. The dogs have begun barking.
4. I'm eager to start reading.
5. The cat dashed into the house.

* It may be possible to form other meaningful sentences with these words, so do not require groups to arrive at exactly these sentences. The only requirement is that each member of the group complete a sentence that is grammatically and syntactically correct.