

■ STOCK EXCHANGE: A COLLABORATION ACTIVITY

Goals

- To provide the participants with an opportunity to experience the effects of different approaches to developing resources.
- To develop the participants' awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of various collaborative strategies.

Group Size

Four subgroups of three to five members each.

Time Required

One hour and forty minutes.

Materials

- One copy each of Stock Exchange Templates A, B, C, and D. The facilitator may want to reproduce these templates on cardboard or heavy paper stock so that the participants can work with them more easily.
- A plastic bag containing poker chips for each subgroup. Prior to conducting the activity, the facilitator should obtain enough red, blue, yellow, and white poker chips to stack to the required levels on all four templates.¹ (Yellow poker chips may be obtained from a number of game stores without special ordering.) Then the facilitator fills the four plastic bags as follows:
 - In the first bag: one red chip and random numbers of blue, yellow, and white chips;
 - In the second bag: one blue chip and random numbers of red, yellow, and white chips;
 - In the third bag: one yellow chip and random numbers of red, blue, and white chips; and
 - In the fourth bag: one white chip and random numbers of red, blue, and yellow chips.

¹ Poker chips vary in size. To conduct this activity successfully, the facilitator must ensure that all chips in any given color are of the same size and thickness. However, it is not essential that the red chips be the same size as the blue chips, and so forth.

Physical Setting

A room large enough to accommodate a separate table for each subgroup and interaction among the subgroups. The tables should be separated from one another by plenty of space.

Process

1. The facilitator announces that the participants are to experience an activity that emphasizes the effects of different approaches to developing resources.
2. The participants are assembled into four subgroups of approximately equal size, and each subgroup is assigned to a separate table.
3. Each subgroup is given a copy of one of the four templates and a bag of poker chips.
4. The facilitator explains that the activity consists of three rounds. Throughout the three rounds the objective for each subgroup will be the same: to obtain enough of each color of poker chips to stack to or over the required level on the subgroup's template. However, in each round the subgroups will be asked to use a different approach in attempting to meet this objective. It is clarified that before each round the facilitator will explain the approach to be used.
5. Questions about the activity are elicited and answered. (Five minutes.)
6. The participants are told that in round 1 each subgroup is to seek to meet its own needs exclusively. The subgroups may ask for chips from one another, but they may not barter for them; they may give away chips if asked, but they are not obligated to do so. In addition, no subgroup may inquire about another subgroup's needs.
7. The instructions are clarified as necessary, and the subgroups are told to begin.
8. After ten minutes the facilitator stops the activity, asks which subgroups met their objectives, and encourages the participants to share briefly with the total group their feelings about the interactions that took place during the first round. (Five minutes.)
9. The facilitator explains that during round 2 each subgroup is to seek to meet its own needs, but that the subgroups may barter with one another and should try to make even exchanges. If more than half of the subgroups met their objectives during the previous round, the facilitator collects all chips and redistributes them as described in the Materials section.
10. The instructions are clarified as necessary, and the subgroups are told to begin.
11. After ten minutes the facilitator stops the activity, again asks which subgroups met their needs, and invites the participants to share their feelings about what occurred during the round. (Five minutes.)

12. The facilitator states that during round 3 each subgroup is to try not only to meet its own needs, but also to help the other subgroups to meet their needs. It is suggested that the subgroups link their resources in order to accomplish this goal. Again, if more than half of the subgroups have already met their objectives, the facilitator collects and redistributes the chips.
13. Questions about the instructions are elicited and answered, and the subgroups are asked to begin.
14. After ten minutes the facilitator stops the activity, checks to see which subgroups met their objectives, and asks the participants to share with the total group their feelings about what happened during the third round. (Five minutes.)
15. The total group is reconvened for a concluding discussion during which the facilitator asks the following questions:
 - Which round was the most enjoyable or satisfying? What characteristics of the action during that round contributed to your satisfaction with the outcome?
 - How did the three rounds differ in terms of their impact on your subgroup?
 - Which of the approaches used in the three rounds would you prefer using as your own personal style?
 - Which approach most closely resembles the one used by your back-home group?
 - How and under what circumstances could you use the collaborative approach of round 3 (networking) in your back-home group? What might be the advantages of this approach? What might be the disadvantages?
 - What are some other collaborative strategies that you could use back home?

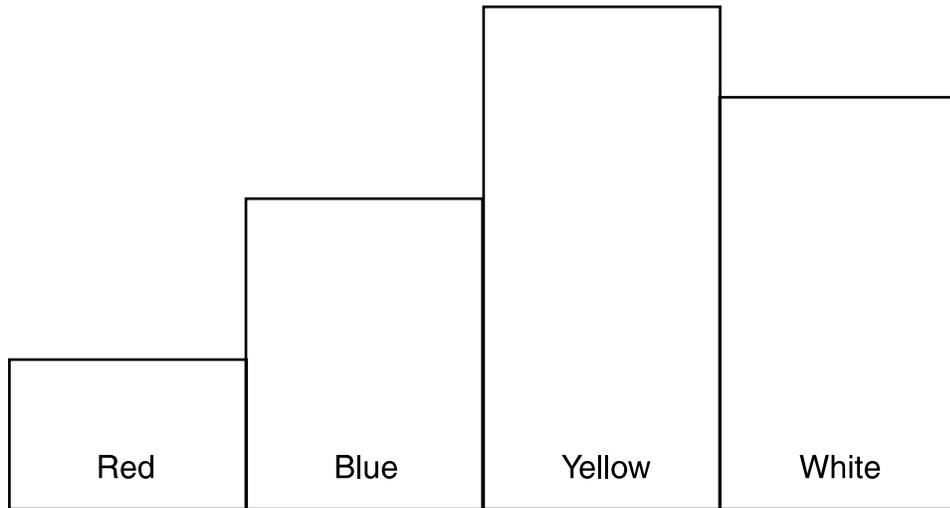
Variations

- Coins may be substituted for the poker chips.
- The difficulty of the activity may be increased by conducting the activity with fewer poker chips than required for the subgroups to meet their objectives.
- Instead of eliciting the participants' feelings about interactions after each round, the facilitator may defer all processing until step 15.

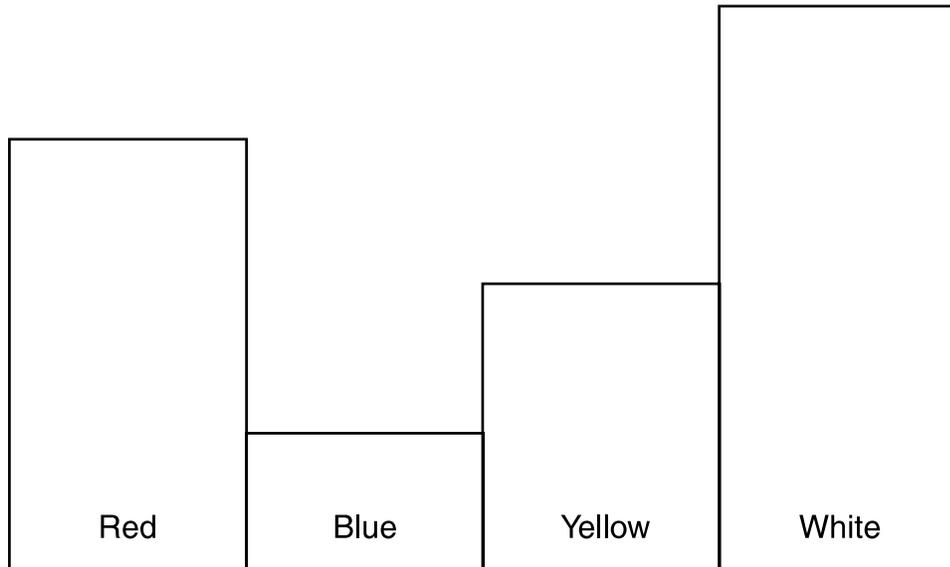
- After step 15 the participants may be asked to reassemble into their subgroups in order to develop back-home plans for various collaborative strategies, such as networking.
- After step 15 the facilitator may deliver a lecturette on collaboration.

Submitted by Kenneth W. Howard.

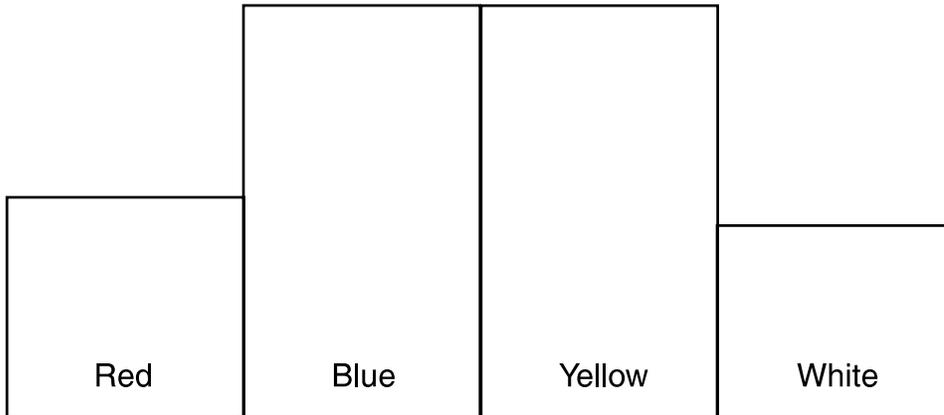
Stock Exchange Template A



Stock Exchange Template B



Stock Exchange Template C



Stock Exchange Template D

