

## TIPS TO TEAMS AND TEAM MANAGERS - IC

(Or what they don't tell you in the Rulebook)

Always try to do Instant Challenge practice AFTER you have been fed. Also, when you compete, don't forget to eat something with a little sugar; I always used grapes that I washed and put in a zip lock bag for my teams. By the way, remember to use the bathroom; you can't think creatively when they are thinking of something else!

Read along with the Appraisers (silently). After you start, have someone who is the team's 'Reader' to go over it again; maybe read it as the team starts to brainstorm their solution.

The Reader is also the person who is looking to make sure that the team doesn't go off track and is doing what the Challenge is asking for them to do.

See that word 'presentation?' When you see that, you know that your team needs to put on a short performance/skit as part of their solution. The more integrated it is, the higher the point value. Improv, IMPROV!

Check out where the points are coming from; how many different costumes will be scored? You might see humor getting scored in various Challenges; what does that mean to your team? You are being scored by adults (usually), so what does humor mean to them?

Remember, if it is not nice to say at the family dinner table with Grandma sitting there, the Appraisers won't like it either. No 'bathroom' humor!

Play with all the kinds of things that are used to create solutions in our Instant Challenges. Keep a list (with sketches) of how many things your team can do with a straw, tape, an envelope, labels, string, yarn, paper plates, paper clips, toothpicks, paper; you get the idea. We always toss in extra stuff, but the favorites are usually there.

Take things apart; what else can you do with them? Learn how to use ANYTHING that has adhesive (sticky) properties, or can hold other things together.

Talk about what the word 'teamwork' means to your team. How can you demonstrate teamwork? We teach the Appraisers that each team will have their own style of teamwork. Discover your style. How will you express your style so the Appraisers can take note of it? Teamwork is nearly ALWAYS scored.

You should try to do Instant Challenge practice at every team meeting. I know that by the time your first competition comes around, your Team Manager feels brain dead with coming up with one more Challenge. No problem! You should be repeating Challenges that you have done. Here's my rule: You can do ANYTHING, but you can't create your solution that is anything at all like what you did the first time. It must be a totally different solution to the same Challenge. What will happen is that by doing this, it will force your team to that next level of creativity that is WOW!

## Instant Challenge Websites and Resources

For practice instant challenges, check:

<http://www.destinationimagination.org/> IC's available for purchase on CD

[www.angelfire.com/wi/thinkingcaps](http://www.angelfire.com/wi/thinkingcaps) from Down Under

[www.txcpso.org/IC/index.html](http://www.txcpso.org/IC/index.html) from Texas, I think

[www.lowrent.net/improv/games.html](http://www.lowrent.net/improv/games.html) Improv Games