

The Paper Chain Gang

Introduction: This is a new twist to making the old traditional paper chain. Task is for students to make the longest and best paper chain. Competition can be between teams in each class or if you have more than one JMG class, you can have a grand winner. You can tape the chains around the room; students love to see their chains displayed. The main purpose of this activity is problem solving and working together as team.

Materials: Sheets of construction paper, scissors, masking tape, bandanas/anything to tie wrists together

Time Frame: 20 to 30 minutes; this is an activity that can provide fun and friendly completion no matter the length of time.

Directions:

1. Divide groups into 3-5 students
2. Tie the wrist of one player to the wrist of another player until all players in the groups are tied together in a circle. (Do not tie the same two players together)
3. Place the same number of sheets of construction paper, the same length of masking tape and a pair of scissors in the center of the group.
4. Use only the supplies on the table and make a paper chain.



Variation: Begin by asking students “Who can do something really well? After a brief discussion about some of the students’ talents, pass out paper and ask students to write down five things they do well. Then provide each with five different-colored paper strips. Have each student write a different talent on each paper strip. Then create a mini paper chain by linking the five talent strips together. As the students complete their mini chains, use extras strips of paper to link the mini chains together to create one long class chain. Have students stand and hold the growing chain as you link the pieces together. Once the entire chain is constructed and linked, lead a discussion about what the chain demonstrates.

For example, it might illustrate that:

1. All students have talents.
2. The students in this class have many talents.
3. If the students in this class work together they can accomplish anything.
4. Our class is stronger when students work together than when individual students work on their own.

Hang the chain in the room as a constant reminder to students of the talents they possess and the benefits that can result from teamwork.