2005 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

Verbal Spontaneous Problem: HEIGHT OF EXAGGERATION

A. When the team members enter the room, tell them, "This is a verbal problem. You have 1 minute to select the five team members who will compete. The others must sit in these seats and watch (indicate seats) or leave the room. They may not participate in any way."

B. JUDGE READS TO TEAMS: (Do not read material in parentheses.)

(1) You have 1 minute to think and 4 minutes to respond. You can ask the judges questions, but time will continue. You cannot talk to each other at any time.

(2) You will receive 1 point for each common response and 5 points for each creative response.

(3) Each of you has 6 cards. You will take turns in order. After you give a response, you will place one of your cards in the container.

(4) Speak loudly and clearly. Once time begins, it will not be stopped, even if the judge asks you to repeat a response, or to clarify it, or to give a more appropriate response.

(5) You may not skip your turn. If one member of the team is stuck, the team is stuck.

(6) You will be finished when response time ends or you have used all of your cards.

(7) Pretend that you and a classmate are bragging about friends. You are exaggerating by saying your friend is taller, stronger, or smarter and why.

(8) Your problem is to complete one of the statements (point to statements):

   "My friend is so tall . . . ."
   "My friend is so strong . . . ."
   "My friend is so smart . . . ."

(9) When it is your turn, you can respond to any one of the statements. Your response must include the entire statement. For example, you might say, "My friend is so strong he can lift one hundred pounds" or, "My friend is so smart she gets 100 on every test."

(Repeat items in boldface. Begin by saying, "I repeat.")
C. FOR JUDGES ONLY:

1. Judges should discuss and practice solving the problem before the first team competes. You may make decisions that are uniform to each team.

2. Place two copies of the Team's Copy in full view of all team members before you read the problem to them. They may refer to them during the competition.

3. Place a copy of the statements in full view of all team members.

4. Give each team member a set of 6 cards. Each set should be different from the others, such as different colors, or marked with different shapes, etc. Make sure team members surrender a card after each response. Once a team member responds and hands in his or her last card, that team member may no longer respond.

5. Place a container within reach of all team members. Make sure it has an opening large enough for the cards to fit through and that it can hold all 30 cards.

6. Be sure to give exactly 1 minute to think and 4 minutes to respond. Timing is critical. Team members responding as time ends may finish and be scored.

7. Score 1 point for each common response, 5 points for each creative response. Judges’ opinions will vary as to what is common or creative. This is okay, but be sure judges make consistent decisions for each team when scoring.

8. Examples of Common Responses:

   😊 *My friend is so tall . . .* she can ride the big roller coaster, she rescued the cat from the tree, he’s taller than his dad, she’s the tallest one in my class, he looks like he’s 18, she won’t wear high heels, he doesn’t need a ladder to change a light bulb, she could be a model, he can’t fit in an elevator.

   😊 *My friend is so strong . . .* he can lift 100 pounds, she can do pull-ups, she beat me at arm wrestling, she’s on the varsity shot put team, everyone’s afraid to tease her, he can break boards with his bare hands, he has muscles bigger than Mr. Universe, she won the body building contest, because he always eats his spinach, I’ve never seen anything like it, nobody will go near him.

   😊 *My friend is so smart . . .* she gets 100 on every test, she graduated college at 14, he got straight A’s, he knows everything, she got the highest grade on the math test, she’s my role model, because he studies every night, she skipped 4th grade, he’s a genius, I go to her whenever I need advice, he reads five books every day.

9. Examples of Creative Responses:

   😊 *My friend is so tall . . .* people mistake him for Michael Jordan, she was asked to join the circus, he’s in the Guinness Book of World Records, his dad had to raise the ceilings in their house, she makes me feel like a midget.

   😊 *My friend is so strong . . .* she never cries, even deodorant won’t go near him, he has to push his dad’s car when the starter goes bad.

   😊 *My friend is so smart . . .* she never does anything wrong, she knows the secrets of the universe, even Stephen Hawking calls her for advice, we call her Sage, she substitutes for our teacher sometimes, she has all the answers, sometimes I think she’s psychic.

NOTE: If the team gives a response very similar to a previous one, count it as common and then declare any other responses that are basically the same as a repeat. If a team member does not say the complete statement, stop them and instruct them to say the complete statement in their response. Do not pause the time.