P-TECH Paper Table Challenge

Career Coaching Event

Lisi / P-TECH

Paper Table Challenge

**THE CHALLENGE:**

Design and build a table out of newspaper tubes and a piece of cardboard. Must be at least eight inches tall and free standing with the goal it will be strong enough to hold heavy textbooks.

**MATERIAL:**

* 1 piece of cardboard (approximately 8.5 x 11 inches)
* Masking Tape (arms length for each team)
* 8 sheets of newspaper
* Textbooks

**BRAINSTORN & DESIGN:**

Look at the materials and think about the questions below. Feel free to do some quick research on your phone….now sketch your design idea in your notebook.

* How can you make a strong tube out of a piece of newspaper?
* How can you arrange the tubes to make a strong, stable table?
* How can you support the table legs to keep them from tilting or twisting?
* How level does the table’s top need to be to support a heavy textbook?

**BUILD, TEST, EVALUATE & REDESIGN:**

Use the materials to build your table…then test it by carefully setting a book on it.

Remember….your first design may not work…this is not a mistake…it’s an opportunity!!!

Make changes…build and test again!!!

If you’re having trouble…consider these suggestions:

**If your tubes start to unroll** – reroll them so they are tighter. The tube shape lets the load (textbook(s) push on every part of the newspaper, not just one section of it.

**Legs twist or tilt** – Find a way to stabilize and support them. They should be braced. Check to see of the table is level.

**A leg buckles when you add weight** – Support or reinforce the weakest area. Use a wider or thicker-walled tube. Replace the tube if it’s badly damaged. Dents, creases, and wrinkles make the legs weaker.

**The table collapses** – Make the base as strong as possible. A table with triangular supports tend to be strong.