

What is a Bouncy Ball Launcher?

It is a fun way for students to work in groups to complete a creative task. Given random material, students will need to create a Bouncy Ball Launcher and perform in an infomercial skit. The goal is to sell their Bouncy Ball Launcher to the teacher and the teacher will ultimately pick a winning group. Things to consider will be how the group came up with the idea, executed the idea, and presented the idea.

Why use the Bouncy Ball Launcher with your students?

This can be used at the beginning of a school year to break the ice with students. It can also be used when you are introducing a creative assignment in order to help spark the students' imagination. This is great for collaboration, communication, and creativity.

What materials can be used to create the launcher?

We suggest not using materials that make the launcher impossible to create but also not using materials that will give many students the exact same idea (such as a plastic spoon that they will all put the bouncy ball on and bend back to launch). Some materials may be a styrofoam cup, wood craft stick, rope, plastic bag, cardboard, etc. We feel it is fair to give all groups the same material and not replenish the material once they use it. Another idea is let the first day be trial and error with their materials, and then throw all of those materials away and the next day give the same materials to make their final project. We also do not give any group a bouncy ball (or you could use a ping pong ball) except for the last 10 minutes of the build so you will not have items flying across the classroom the whole time.

How long will the Bouncy Ball Launcher take?

Usually 3 class periods (40 minutes). 1.5 periods to create the launcher. The other 1.5 periods to create an infomercial that is selling the product to the teacher. Using some examples of infomercials is always helpful for students to find inspiration. Another 1 to 2 class periods to present the launchers.

How can I use the materials provided?

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Infomercial Rubric

GROUP	7-8	5-6	3-4	1-2
Oral Presentation	Was able to clearly explain invention and how it works. Answered all of the following: • How group came up with the idea • How it would be massed produced • How the item is used and why it is the best	Was mostly able to explain the invention and how it works. Answered all of the following: • How group came up with the idea • How it would be massed produced • How the item launcher is used and why it is the best	Was partially able to explain the invention and how it works. Answered 2 out of the 3: · How group came up with the idea · How it would be massed produced · How the item is used and why it is the best	Was not able to explain the invention or how it works. Answered 1 out of the 3: · How group came up with the idea · How it would be massed produced · How the item is used and why it is the best
Commercial Appeal	This is the equivalent of a TV commercial, informative and persuasive - Themes are clearly used and demands consumer action	Skit is very Persuasive - Lacks a clear theme	Skit is well done but lacks persuasion of buying your invention and has no clear theme.	Skit is not persuasive at all - No themes are taken advantage of
Product Information	Information about invention is plentiful - Information is useful and presented creatively - Included logo OR jingle	A lot of information is given about the invention but lacks the substance of understanding the product. Includes logo OR jingle	Some information about the invention is given. Lacking creativity. No logo OR jingle	No real information about invention is given. No logo OR jingle.
Product	Shows great effort, thought, and creativity	Shows much effort, thought, and creativity	Shows some effort, thought, and creativity	Shows little effort, thought, and creativity
Individual				
Presentation Skills	Eye contact, voice, and movement are well used throughout.	Eye contact, voice, and movement were attempted.	One of the three were lacking completely.	Did not do 2 or 3 of these based on skit participation.
Participation	Complete participation	Participated in making skit and participated in skit.	Participated in making skit OR product OR participating in skit.	Did not participate in activity