

DIaLOGue

Hot Destination ImagiNation News from Destination ImagiNation of New York
November 2006

Team Manager Training Dates Finalized... Training underway!

Please check our website (<http://www.nydi.org>) for the finalized dates and locations of Team Manager Training Workshops in each of our Regions. Feel free to attend as many training workshops as you would like! They are free and open to anyone who will be facilitating teams!

Team Clarifications Open October 15, 2005

On October 15, teams were able to enter the Clarification site at www.idodi.org to see any *Published* Clarifications and to ask for Team Clarifications. Teams that have questions about their Challenge or the *Rules of the Road* should be encouraged to look closely through the material themselves. If they are unable to find the answers, they should ask their Regional or Affiliate Director. If the answer is obvious in the Challenge or in the *Rules of the Road*, the Regional or Affiliate Director can help the team find the answers there. If there is any degree of interpretation involved, though, the team should always ask the International Challenge Masters via the Clarification system. You can find a link to the Clarification system on our website homepage menu.

Team Clarifications are completely confidential to the team; neither their question nor the answer will be shared with any other team - that is not because the answer is a secret - it must come directly from the Challenge. The Clarification is completely confidential because the question often reflects the thinking of the team and the direction of their Challenge solution.

Order your DI Challenge Pins now...

Never know what to give your DI'er for the holidays?

Looking for a little stocking stuffer for that special DI team member, Manager or volunteer?

Please take a moment to check out our NY-DI Website at <http://www.nydi.org> and have a look at our 2007 Challenge Pins - they might be just what you are looking for!

You can find images of all of the pins available on our website specifically at <http://www.nydi.org/2007%20CHALLENGE%20PINS.pdf> just click on the top line of the page to get to the order form or go directly to <http://www.nydi.org/2007challenge%20pin%20ORDERFORM.pdf>

Pins can be ordered until January 1st - orders will be delivered in January

This is a major fund raiser for NY-DI, please take a look at these pins and see if there is something here to interest the DI'er in your home!

INSTANT CHALLENGE..... Tips To Use With Your Team!

Instant Challenge always plays a big part in determining champions at a DI tournament, every Team Manager should be starting every team meeting with Instant Challenge training. Our lending library has literally hundreds of Instant Challenges you can use with your teams, contact Dee Urban to borrow items from the library. Here are some tips you might not have tried:

1. Play charades with your team. It helps the team members learn to communicate non-verbally with one another.
2. Consider using commercial games like "Scattergories" "Pictionary" "Outburst" "Password" and "Taboo" with your teams. Have you seen the game "Canium" - this game is really IC in a box!!!! These are great games to increase your teams' ability to brainstorm, fluency, and flexibility.
3. Place any unusual object you can find (look in your basement, garage and junk drawer for things you don't even recognize!) in front of your team and ask your team to tell you what the object is and how it can be used.

Remember to work with your teams on a variety of different kinds of Instant Challenges. There are three main types of challenge your team may encounter in the IC room, performance, task, and a combination or hybrid challenges. The strategies your team should use with each of these challenges are different and they need practice in all varieties.

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While parents need to be cautioned from assisting in the solution of the Team Challenge, IC is an area where parents can and should be enlisted to assist the Team Manager. Hold a parents meeting, actually tackle a couple of different kinds of Instant Challenges with the parents and then ask them to practice ICs with their children on car trips, over the dinner table or whenever they can. Recommend brainstorming games (like the one's listed above) to parents as a great family activity and a way that they can be involved with no fear of interference!

About Instant Challenge Practice:

Instant Challenges demand that teams think creatively on the spot, without a great deal of time to think or ponder. Practicing IC teaches the team basic methods they can use to come up with divergent solutions to any problem. These brainstorming skills can be used not only on competition day, but in many problem-solving situations that require divergent solutions. Experience with these skills is required in order to effectively solve these challenges during competition. More importantly IC can be lots of fun!

What is an Instant Challenge?

The Instant Challenge presentation is a chance for your team to show off its creative problem solving skills in a short, unrehearsed presentation to officials.

At our tournaments teams report to a separate competition area and are escorted to a room where officials will give the team a new challenge to solve. Only the team, one team manager, and officials are allowed in this room...no audience is present! The challenges are 3 to 10 minutes in length and worth up to 100 points (25% of total possible score). Each team that competes in a specific Team Challenge at a specific competition Level will receive the same Instant Challenge – for example all Elementary Level teams that present solutions to CSI:DI will receive the same Instant Challenge at the tournament. It is very important to keep the challenge a secret after your team has competed. You may discuss it privately among yourselves but you will be disqualified if you are overheard discussing it on competition day. Teams should not discuss challenges publicly after the tournament because regional and affiliate finals use the same challenges.

Three types of Instant Challenges:

1. Performance Based

Performance challenges involve acting out situations. Teams are scored on the creativity of the character development, on the creativity of the situation or story line and on how well they team works together to create the scene. Props may be involved by the team is not scored on the creative use of a prop. Often Performance challenges will require a team to improvise a skit for a given situation. Performance Based Challenges may be without props, with props, with team created props or with imaginary props.

2. Task Based

In a Task Based challenge the team is given materials and must move, build, change or protect objects. The team is scored on how well they work together to design the solution and the creativity of the final product. Team members may be allowed to talk to each other while designing the solution but would not be scored on verbal creativity.

3. Hybrid

The team is given materials and asked to use those materials to create a situation. The team is scored on the creativity of the situation or story line, character development, creative use of materials and teamwork.

Instant Challenge & Improv Tips

- ☆ Speak loudly and clearly
- ☆ Listen to instructions carefully. Ask questions if the instructions are not clear.
- ☆ Know where the points are and direct your solution to gaining points.
- ☆ Listen to your teammates when doing Improv. Relax and go with the flow!
- ☆ Don't make unnecessary long speeches. Give everyone a chance to add to the solution.
- ☆ Practice giving everyone a part. Making up a skit where team members play scenery sometimes demonstrate teamwork better than using props or only strong performers.
- ☆ Practice talking yourself out of a jam when your mind goes blank.
- ☆ Practice saving a teammate who cannot think of a line or reaction.
- ☆ Practice using exaggerated movements and expressions.
- ☆ Make up your own improv games that include different criteria for scoring. Have the team members practice judging.
- ☆ Never argue with an official or argue with a teammate in front of an official...teamwork is a scored skill!

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Check List for Teams in All Instant Challenges:

1. Determine the Focus of the Challenge. What is the Challenge? What are we supposed to do? Find the key phrase that identifies the Challenge
2. Analyze Scoring Areas - Where are the points? Concentrate only on areas where we get points! What scores the most points will dictate how your team invests its time.
3. Analyze Materials Provided – Choose the best materials for your solution – not all materials must be used unless the Challenge specifies that more points are awarded for using more, or all of the materials.
4. Who is the timekeeper for our team? How much time will we allot for idea generation, how much for building/performing? Can we see the 'official' time piece?
5. How will we demonstrate Teamwork? Teamwork must be publicly demonstrated – hidden teamwork hurts your score – speak loudly and clearly.

Time to Start Thinking about Appraisers!

We are always in need of new appraisers, please feel free to copy this article and the Appraiser Response form on our website (<http://nydi.org/2007AppraiserForm.pdf>) along with the Team Challenge Summaries on our website (<http://www.nydi.org/2007%20Previews.pdf>) and pass them on to anyone who might be interested in Appraising.

We **require** that each membership provide the name, address and telephone number(s) of at least one potential Appraiser for each team it sends into **REGIONAL** competition. This assures that our Appraisal team is representative of all of our members. Check with your **REGIONAL DIRECTOR** for information and requirements regarding Appraisers for your tournaments.

The Eastern Regional Director is [Seth Davis](#) - the Eastern Regional Tournament is scheduled for 3/24/07.
The Western Regional Director is [Dee Urban](#) – the Western Regional Tournament is scheduled for 3/10/07.
The Central Regional Director is [Jan Simone](#) – the Central Regional Showcase is scheduled for 3/3/07.

Here is a sample Appraiser Invitation letter:

In the past, the role of appraiser during the competition has contributed greatly to the overall success of the event. I am inviting you to appraise one of the challenges at this year's Regional Tournament. The Team Challenge Summaries can be accessed at our website. As always, Instant Challenges cannot be revealed until the day of the competition. Please fill out the "Appraiser Response Form" and return it as soon as possible, but not later than 2/1/07 so we may send out Appraising team assignments and the complete Challenge in advance of our Appraiser training. It is essential that all appraisers be properly certified for their particular challenge and therefore Appraiser training is **mandatory**. Your attendance will insure personal confidence, as well as competent Appraisal. If you would like to Appraise, but this session is inconvenient, please contact your Regional Director – we CAN and WILL make special arrangements for you!

We encourage you to also Appraise at our State Tournament to be held on April 24, 2007. If you are interested in appraising at our State Tournament please check the appropriate box on the Appraiser Response Form. I urge you to consider this critical role.

Keeping Up To Date...

It is very important that you get in the habit of checking e-mail and our website at <http://nydi.org> often! It is cost prohibitive to do business by mail, therefore it is **CRITICAL** that every team have at least one person who is responsible for checking e-mail at least once a week, but preferably daily, for important information about the Program. All NY-DI newsletters will be posted to our website and an e-mail will be sent to each contact person whose e-mail address we have with any important website updates. If you want to be included on our e-mailing-list please go to our website homepage (<http://www.nydi.org>) and click on "CLICK HERE TO BE INCLUDED IN ALL NY-DI MAILINGS" in the Latest News section of the homepage.

Purchasing School Supplies?

When you purchase your school supplies this year PLEASE consider purchasing at 'Office Max'. They have made a wonderful offer to NY-DI to allow all of our member's purchases to be used to help NY-DI accrue 'MaxPerks' rewards that can be redeemed for paper, printing costs etc. You would be amazed at how much you will save NY-DI just by making your regular purchases for back-to-school and using our MaxPerks number at checkout! **Please use MaxPerks Program ID # 2025-62957 for Destination ImagiNation of New York when purchasing at Office Max, CopyMax or the officemax.com website throughout the year.**

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Purchasing from ShopDI?

If you are new to ShopDI (<http://www.shopdi.org>) you will want to have a look! There are wonderful resources available from DI, Inc.'s online store. When you register with ShopDI you will be asked for an "Affiliate Code" – using this code once will allow the NY-DI Affiliate accrue funds we use to add items to our Lending Library. **Please input the NY-DI Affiliate code NY0620A when you register on ShopDI!** (use zero not the letter O).

If you already have an account on ShopDI and are not sure if you have input the NY-DI Affiliate code you can check (and input it if you haven't already) by going to ShopDI (<http://www.shopdi.org>), signing in, then click the "My ShopDI" tab on the upper right of the homepage, then clicking "View or change my account information" under the "My Account" heading. If you have any difficulty in finding where to input the NY-DI Affiliate Code please send an e-mail including the Code (**NY0620A**) and requesting that it be included in your ShopDI account information to Ajones@dihq.org and please copy me (deurban@adelphia.net) with this e-mail so I can follow up for you.

New Resources in the Lending Library

Please feel free to check out items from our Affiliate Lending Library on 10-day loan as needed throughout the year. You will find a listing of those items available in our library on our website, just click on NY-DI Lending Library on the website menu. There are several new items in the Lending Library – please take a look! The link to the Lending Library is on our website homepage menu.

What is always the same...

If I can be of any assistance to you on the DI journey for another exciting year, please feel free to contact me at any time – the NY-DI Board members, Regional Directors and I stand ready to help you to provide the very best program to the students of New York....

Committed to Creativity,



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