



MOTIVATE Your Staff

GAMES TO INSPIRE YOUR STAFF

The Tangled Web We Weave

Materials: large ball of string, yarn or twine

- Ask all of the participants to form a circle, sitting or standing.
- As the leader, begin by discussing how the group is dependent on each other in order to function properly.
- Take a ball of string, yarn or twine and holding one end of it, toss the ball to another participant. Tell him or her how you are dependent on them (you can't edit pages until they are entered on the computer, you need the photos in order to write the captions, etc.)
- They, in turn, hold a portion of the string and toss the ball to another person.
- When you have an intricate web of string connecting all or most of the people, discuss again how you need everyone to work together.

Discussion Questions:

- How did you choose the person to whom you tossed the ball of string? Could you have selected others?
- Did anyone have the ball of string more than twice? Does the group rely too heavily on that person? What does that tell you about the separation of responsibilities within a group?
- Realizing that other people rely on your performance, how can you hold yourself accountable during the stress of production? How can you hold others accountable?

The Human Knot

Materials: none

- Separate the participants into groups of eight. (Six and ten also work, but eight is the ideal number.)
- Ask each group to stand in a circle.
- With their right hands extended, each member should clasp hands with another participant.
- With their left hands, each member should clasp hands with a *different* participant. The result is one giant knot of hands in the middle of the circle.
- Challenge the group to untangle themselves without letting go of hands. If they need a hint, remind the participants to think three dimensionally (they can climb over and under the hands).
- For advanced groups or groups who finish quickly, ask them to do the activity again *without talking*.

Discussion Questions:

- What was your initial reaction when you heard the task?
- Did one person take over as the leader or was it a group effort?
- How did you communicate and give instructions?
- How does this reflect life in the journalism room? (everyone needs to work together; each person plays an equal role in production; you need to communicate things clearly without dropping what you are doing to do it for them)
- How does this activity relate specifically to your job or position?