

Adventure Challenge

A three-page, 1,326 word article by Armen Xue

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Adventure Challenge is one of the most important units in life. Not the strength that helps you, but the actions you do. Adventure Challenge is about working with each other and being respectful to others- discussing different plans to complete a relatively hard or easy task.

Like Chuck Yeager, known as the first person to fly a plane at supersonic speed, the scientists that prepared the test or experiment had to discuss. They had to do it a lot. Why? Because other planes that tried to fly at supersonic speed usually collapsed and killed their pilot. Lots of tests made by others failed. But the scientists knew what to do. They found out what was making the planes collapse. When a plane entered the "sound barrier", a cone of air pushes onto the plane, making it collapse. A cone of death which blasts the pilot out of the cockpit like an ejector seat. Then a mass of death would sweep over the pilot either by fall damage or other causes.

The scientists knew they had to solve this problem. They trusted each other with open-minded and communication to complete the attempt. And you know what? Because of the scientists' discussion and ideas, Chuck Yeager, who had three broken ribs from falling off a horse, successfully flew at the speed of sound without the plane collapsing to bits like other planes. And because of the scientists' trust, communication, and open-minds, the flight Chuck Yeager made opened a new era of flight to us mankind. Without the scientists nor Chuck, Concorde planes wouldn't even exist.

Now to the basics- as you've seen, there were three key words- communication, open-minds, and trust. These three elements combine to make success. Or failure. When failure comes, then study what went wrong- then fix it and improve it. Try it again. If it doesn't work, then try again. Even if this is boring, it's important. You can see the three elements working in a ton of situations- you meet them since the day you were born. Try again, again, again, again, and again. There must be a time where you would hit success. Besides Chuck Yeager and the flight of breaking the sound barrier, the key words are also involved with making the first computer animation movie (Toy Story), and inventing the lightbulb- Thomas Edison was said to overcome 5,999 failures to make a single working lightbulb! We know the saying...

"Failure is the mother of success"

-Hideki Yukawa (1907-1981)

[Discoverer of an atom's smaller components]

Time for the definitions of the key words: Trust, Open-minds, and communication. As I said before, these are the key words or elements that make up a big chunk, which could be either a chance of failure or success. The chance of either one happening are equally likely.

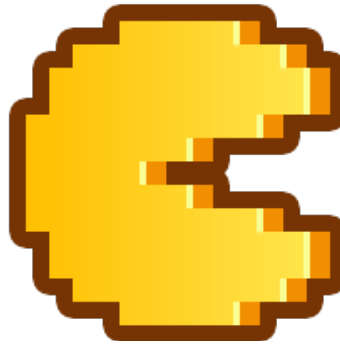
Trust means that you have to listen to others' ideas- try them out- and see how it goes. You have to trust others to complete a task. Or, if you are doing a task yourself, then you need to trust yourself. That's how Thomas Edison made the lightbulb himself.

Communication is a synonym for discussion- discussion is vital when the scientists had to share their plans and ideas and try them out on the road for success to break the sound barrier. They need to check the plane's components and infrastructure over and over before the big day.

Open-mind means to listen to others' ideas or suggestions when doing a group project or a hard/difficult task. In other words, you are willing to listen to others' ideas. And these elements are involved in these challenges we faced.

Not real challenges, though, and I admit they were pretty fun (not to mention that we screwed up on one activity).

First, we played "Pac Man". Well, this game is a bit like the original arcade game, but it's a little different. There are about four teams, and one team would be the taggers while others run. The taggers would group up and form a plan to tag all of the three teams. When I said the word "plan" it means the three elements combined. In the end, the plan would be tried and the taggers would try to catch everyone.



Then, we played "Cars". This is basically where you get yourself a partner and your partner OR you would be blindfolded. When your partner taps your back as you are blindfolded, it means that your partner is steering you. You and your partner would have to use the three elements to make sure you stay on the "roads" (white lines) on the basketball field. Well, since we were paired up, we had to rely on our partner.

Next, we played "poison ball", where you have to carry a ball with a ring using pieces of rope tied to it. My team had to use the three elements to make the ball still on the ring without falling to the ground (not to mention one of my teammates always screwed up. Actually, it seems that he's WILLING to screw up).

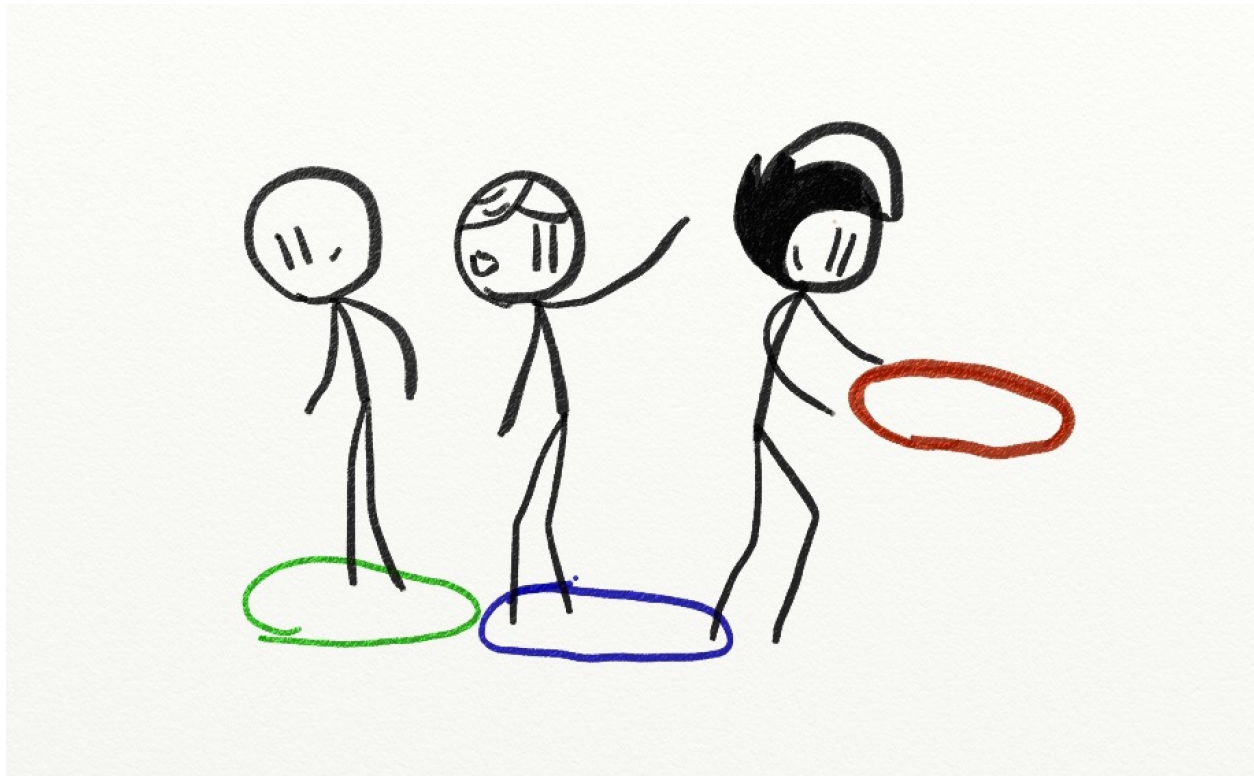
Then, we played "Human Square". This challenge, however was actually pretty hard. I mean, it's easy to make a square made of your classmates on the floor, isn't it? Well, it's the same, not to mention that you are actually *blindfolded*. We had to use the three elements and, sure enough, a lot of talking and suggestions started spreading our whole class like wildfire. But, in the end, we still didn't make a square. To me, it kind of looked like square, but not a complete one (ALSO not to mention that I did a mistake where I was RIGHT in the middle of the "square" which was actually a circle).

Then, we played "Noodles" where we were divided into groups. Each one of us were given a "noodle", and the goal was to carry a bean bag with the noodles without letting it fall to the ground. To be honest, our group went through the whole course successfully without letting the bean bag fall to the ground, even if our discussion was short- very short, in fact. It lasted something like about 3 seconds (that's weird; task-completing discussions usually take a few minutes than seconds- but we had to start fast).

Then we had a "Rope Challenge" where we were blindfolded (again) and we had to be pressed against the side of a wall. When the challenge started, we took off and we had to try finding pieces of rope, untangle them, tie the pieces together, and arrange them into a square or rectangle. Even I admit it- this was the hardest challenge, harder than the Human Square

challenge. I actually bumped my head against a wall once (ha, ha). But still, we had to rely on each other using the three elements to make the challenge successful.

As much as I can remember about this next challenge, it's called "Capturing Gold". This is just about the same as the "caterpillar challenge" and the "Crossing the River" challenge. We were divided into groups and we were given hola hoops. We had to make a sort of "caterpillar" shape, and we had to pass the hola hoop to the front of the caterpillar, which is placed in front of them to move forward. For a better understanding, this is what we did:



(This is probably the same as the Hola Hoop challenge)

So there we go- tons of examples of the Three elements- trust, communication, and open-minds. Almost everywhere, happens to anyone, and extremely vital for mankind to achieve new goals. And a good example for the three elements are the different challenges we faced. I actually admit it, it's pretty fun.

As you realize, our unit on Physical Education isn't just about strength- it's for life.