

### **Talking with Toothpicks activity:**

Purpose: to illustrate the importance of precision and clarity in science communication ie lab reports.

Materials:      Inquiry notebook      pencil  
                    Screen                      10 toothpicks/person

Safety: Do not poke others with toothpicks, don't throw them

                    Don't break the toothpicks, a lab fee can be assessed

Procedures:

Put up a screen between two people who are partners.

Each person takes 10 toothpicks and creates a design flat on the table using ALL 10 toothpicks. The more complicated the better.

Write step-by-step instructions on how to build your design. Leave room to draw your design after another student tries to follow your instructions and duplicate your design. Maybe put your design on scrap paper to help you remember.

Exchange notebooks with another student with your instructions (no pictures) and have your partner attempt to duplicate your design. You may not ask questions.

Compare the attempted duplication to the original. Draw the original in your notebook.

Questions:

Describe how well the instructions were written.

How could they be improved?

Why would it be important to have clear communication in science?

Describe a scenario (real or fake) to show that importance in a beneficial or harmful time.