



DATA PROCESSING

Number of players: 6+

Space: Enough room to make a one, two, or three single-file lines.

Materials Needed: None

Procedure:

Choose an area[s] where students have enough room to create a single file line[s]. Explain that you have “a challenge for the group.” Explain that they must see how quickly the entire class can line up from shortest to tallest without making a single sound. Let them know that if there is a sound that we will stop and try it again. When students have completed the task, see how quickly they can form a perfect standing circle with students lined up alphabetically by last name from A to Z without making a sound. Discuss: “Was this easy? Hard? Why? How did you find ways to communicate with each other? Which line up was easier? Why?”

Tips for Playing:

- Be specific in your directions. Give students a place for the beginning and end of the line such as “Line up from alphabetically by last name with the first letter closest to me and last letter at the other end of the room.” The more specific you are the less chance there will be for confusion.
- Time your students and see if they can beat their own best time.
- If possible, begin by playing with the whole group as one, this way they compete against themselves.
- Have students help suggest new challenges.

Extend the lesson:

- Math: Have students race to make mathematical shapes [square, isosceles triangle, two parallel lines, pi, or Roman Numerals].
- Language Arts: Have students race to make letters of the alphabet.
- Social Studies: Have students race to make letters or symbols from history [Egyptian hieroglyphics, Greek alphabet].

Possible learning areas:

Nonverbal communication, teamwork, working as an ensemble