

Teamwork When Ideas Clash

Choose real or fictional examples. Skip private details; never include passwords, medical information or contact details.

Learning goal: Use listening and a fair test to compare competing team ideas.

Nia wants a tall tower; Jules wants a wide base. Their team has one set of blocks and both think their idea is best. Different ideas can improve a design when everyone is heard. Help the team test ideas instead of testing who can argue longest.

Your steps

1. Read the tower-team case.
2. Describe each idea fairly before choosing.
3. Practice listening and kind disagreement.
4. Design a fair test with a shared success rule.

1. Hear both ideas

Represent each idea so its owner would recognize it. Do not decide the winner yet.

Idea	Possible strength	Question to ask
Nia · tall tower		
Jules · wide base		

2. Words that keep the team thinking

Finish the stems with specific details from the case.

<div>LISTEN · “I hear you suggesting...”</div>	<div>DISAGREE KINDLY · “I wonder whether...”</div>
<div>INVITE · “What matters most to you?”</div>	<div>PROPOSE · “Could we test...?”</div>

Teamwork When Ideas Clash · Practice & next steps

Continue your ideas from page 1. Write, draw, use symbols or ask someone to scribe. Share only what you choose.

3. A fair tower test

Use equal materials and time. Agree on evidence before testing.

Test part	Our plan
Shared success criterion	
Same materials + time	
What we will measure	
How we will combine or choose ideas	

My next step

When ideas clash, I will first...

Optional stretch · Grades 6–8

Design a test that measures two goals, such as height and stability. Explain how the team will handle a trade-off.

Optional teacher / parent follow-up: Protect equitable participation and access. Do not make the most confident speaker the automatic leader.