SUBMITTED BY: Marcia Bernas & Toni Memmel

STRATEGY NAME: Building Communication

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES: Demonstrate the importance of effective communication. Students will become aware of the pitfalls of communicating both orally and in written expression. They will realize the importance of transitional expression, specific details, order and clarity when attempting to communicate. Also, realizing the importance of audience--how this influences the language used. Use as an intro to writing a process analysis.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Bags of lego pieces---each team must have identical pieces in their bags.

PROCESS:

1. Give each team materials.
2. Position themselves so they cannot see each other's work space---back to back works well.
3. One member builds a structure from his pieces.
4. He then gives the partner oral instructions on how to duplicate his structure.

Remember -- the builder cannot talk, ask questions, etc. The burden is on the initial constructor to give directions, and on the builder to follow them exactly.

5. Neither may look at each other's work until the end of the exercise.
6. The person building cannot ask questions---just must follow directions.
7. Compare structures and then switch roles.

When all have finished, have the students show and compare. Are all the pieces in the right spot? Are they all the same colors?

8. Do the activity at least twice. You may wish to use several bags of lego blocks. (easy, medium, and hard)

How well the structures are duplicated will give insight into the ability of the students to communicate effectively. Discuss the problems that came up and how to solve them.

Apply the discussion or writing summary to the following questions of the exercise.

- When did you notice that there were minor variations between the structures? Had you made particular assumptions about your building conditions?
- Did your group establish a terminology for describing the lego pieces?
- Were there any strategies in particular that made this activity easier as you went along?