

7. BOARD GAMES

GET CREATIVE

IN A NUTSHELL

In the modern world, games are increasingly at the heart of the way we work, learn and play.

Games and sports are a valuable form of education – even for serious topics like corruption. They develop knowledge, attitudes and values, and can be highly effective in encouraging teamwork and collectivism.

Game playing is a tool many educators use to teach about integrity and corruption. Board games in particular provide cost-effective, hands-on experiences for participants while encouraging collaboration and open discussion about the game's subject matter.

HOW DO YOU SET IT UP?

- 1. Define the basics:** For the board game, decide on your target audience(s) and the context for playing the game.
- 2. Design, plan, budget:** Be aware of time needed to implement the planning stages. Questions to consider: What materials will the board and game pieces be made of (paper, durable cardboard, plastic, etc.)? How many need to be made and at what cost?
- 3. Get support:** Approach businesses and organisations that may want to help fund the game. Negotiate the terms (i.e. if they can't offer enough to cover the costs to make the game, ask them to sponsor the dissemination of it).
- 4. Test your idea:** Implement your plan and test the game with a focus group before taking it to your target group. During the trial phase, ask players if they are unsure about the concept and be sure that all questions are answered in the game's accompanying "how to play" sheet.
- 5. Promote the game!** Share with friends and the community and consider hosting a tournament or posting the game online so others can replicate it.

WHY DO IT?

- Games cut through student boredom and disinterest. To some, they can even offer learning in camouflage.
- Games can accommodate many different types of learning styles.
- Games are great vehicles for “learning by doing” and can be an excellent way to test knowledge and reinforce practical skills.

YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN

- Educators need to grasp the links between the game and the lessons of the game. This isn't just about using up student time; there are meaningful ideas at play here.
- Games need to be both enjoyable and useful. One out of two isn't good enough.
- Games need to raise insightful questions about the issues at hand – and players should be encouraged to engage intellectually with the ideas of corruption and integrity.

WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS?

- Board games require considerable planning for creating the layout, instructions and rules. Give yourself enough time to produce a well thought-out game.
- Depending on the materials used to make the game, costs can add up quickly. Consider fundraising to alleviate costs.

IDEA IN ACTION

Playing for Rights

Amnesty International created a simple board game to educate youth on human rights – with players becoming groups of refugees planning their escape to freedom. The only equipment needed was print-outs of playing cards on A3 paper, a watch, crayons and pens.

While the theme is not focused on corruption, the downloadable board game can be adapted to the integrity agenda. You can create corruption challenges where players choose what they would do when faced with certain situations and earn points based on their answers. Participants gain an introduction to corruption as well as a better understanding of how to combat it.

Find out more: www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/activity-great-escape