

## Coaches' Corner

December 2021

### REGISTER TODAY

Get the paperwork out of the way by taking a few moments to register for the **2022 CTOM Competition** [HERE](#).

The CTOM Competition will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at Southern Connecticut State University. Teams must register for the tournament before Sunday, January 16, 2022.



Don't forget to access the CTOM 8-Unit Curriculum to help guide your weekly team meetings.

This section is password protected: **GreatCoach2022!**  
<http://ctom.org/ctom-curriculum/>

### CTOM Office Hours

Login to Microsoft Teams on the first Monday of each month for comradery, questions, and insights.

**CTOM Office Hours**  
**Monday, January 10th**  
**7-8pm**

[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

**January Topic:** Overcoming Team Conflict and Defining Rolls

Do you have other questions? Email me – [kkempton@ctom.org](mailto:kkempton@ctom.org)

## What is Outside Assistance?

### *And, how to avoid it.*

Students learn best when they complete tasks on their own, and they develop a sense of pride and increased self-esteem when they go beyond what is expected.

### **Teaching not Assisting**

Although no one may assist the team members in solving the problem, it is not Outside Assistance to teach the team HOW to DO something. Coaches, parents and other supporters may act as tutors or instructors, but they must not make suggestions on how to solve the problem. For example, a parent may teach the members how to sew if they ask but cannot sew and/or design a costume for the team's solution. An art teacher can illustrate various painting techniques and teach students how to use different brushes and materials to create effects but cannot tell a team to use splatter paint to create an Outerspace background.

### **Use Common Sense**

To avoid outside assistance, be sure that all team members, as well as their families, have a clear understanding of what non-team

members can (and cannot) do. If you a team member arrives with a 'homework' project that appears to have been created with the assistance of someone else, ask questions. How did you make it look like that? What materials did you use? If the responses reveal that outside assistance was involved, ask the student to recreate the project independently.

### **What is allowed?**

It is not Outside assistance to use something that was created by someone who is not on the team as long as it was not created to help solve the problem in any way or is being considered for score. For example, if a school has an "OotM closet" where it keeps materials used from past years, future teams may select and use those items without penalty. If the materials were created by the members of the current team, they will be considered team-created. Otherwise, they will be judged as commercially produced, and should be included on the cost form accordingly.



CTOM is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to Odyssey of the Mind in CT

[www.ctom.org](http://www.ctom.org)



# SUBMIT CLARIFICATIONS

**Clarifications may be submitted until February 15, 2022.**

Long-Term Problems are written to provide just enough guidance for teams to solve the problem without limiting creativity. Occasionally additional guidance is required from Odyssey of the Mind HQ or teams may have questions regarding their interpretations of the Long-Term Problem limitations and the rules, as stated in the [Program Guide](#). Clarifications are submitted by logging into the [Team Area](#).

Remember to check for problem specific clarifications early and often. There are three types of clarifications: General, Team-Specific and Judges Only.

**General Clarifications** amend or further explain a long-term problem’s limitations. They take precedence over the limitations listed in the problem and the rules in the Program Guide. It’s important that teams stay current on all general clarifications issued throughout the year.

**Team-Specific Clarifications** allow teams to submit a clarification request that asks if its ideas for a solution are allowed or if they meet the problem’s requirements. These clarifications are kept confidential.

## Where DID you get THAT?

Always remind your team that Odyssey rewards creativity with points. Encourage team members to look around their homes and communities for unique materials that can be used in creative ways to enhance a costume, set or prop.

Encourage team members to bring something new to every meeting. How can we use this? How can it be altered? What could we do with 100 of these?

### Use the Material Creatively

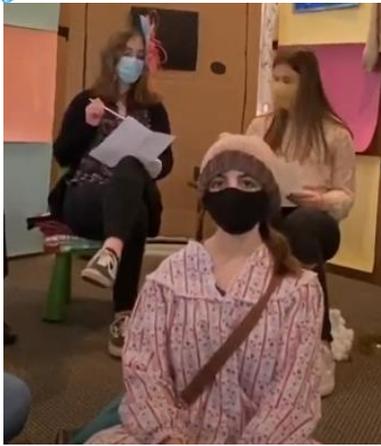
Encourage your team to look at every found item in a new or creative way. Almost every Odyssey team uses at least one roll of Duct Tape. Duct Tape has been solving problems since WWII. From patching up NASCAR

cars during races to connecting PVC on an OM set, the uses are boundless. Duct tape was even used on the Apollo 13 to repair carbon dioxide filters! Challenge your team to find a “NEW” use for duct tape. Once they’ve found one... challenge them to find another material that could work even better!

### ASK for Permission

CTOM encourages students to 'think outside the box' and creatively upcycle found items. Please teach the team to be respectful and ALWAYS ask permission before taking anything...even from a dumpster!





## Go Broad, Go Narrow

Many Odyssey teams can take a page from the corporate world. Encourage your team to apply the Design Thinking method to develop innovative and creative solutions. To generate lots of ideas (Go Broad), use spontaneous challenges to generate multiple options to solve a specific problem. Next narrow your options through detailed planning, experiments and prototypes (Go Narrow).

Design Thinking encourages your team to try new things, reflect on their success and make the adjustments necessary for the next attempt.

## Use Holiday Break to Your Advantage

It can be difficult to have Odyssey enthusiasm amid the chaos of holiday schedules and stress. Remember to breathe deeply (it will all get done). Take advantage of school break and encourage team members to do independent work. If some team members are traveling, and others are staying home, create a to-do list of props or elements that can be worked on in small groups or independently.

### Develop Characters

“Assign” a member or two to brainstorm characters, create a list of puns that support the theme or work on the script. Ask if one of the team families who are not traveling will host a costume ‘work session’ during school break!

### Adapt a Screenplay

To make the story into an Odyssey solution, break it into scenes. Visually describe the setting, characters, and actions of each. Develop dialogue. Create transitions between scenes: a set change, the entry of a new character, a song. Each scene progresses the story toward the resolution. Encourage your team to use technology and collaborate to keep the story developing while traveling or at home!

### Use Words AND Actions

To bring it to life the team uses words, music, movement and more to tell the story. A character can communicate emotion through a facial expression. A prop can make someone laugh through actions. Remember, the team solution is an interaction between the team and the audience. When a team tells a good story the audience will relate and will smile, laugh or cry along with the team on stage. Encourage your team to practice their acting skills with various family members during the break.

## Key Dates and Details:

### Key Dates

Saturday, January 8, 2022

### **Coach Training B**

Monday, January 10th, 2022

### **CTOM Office Hours**

Saturday, January 16, 2022

### **Tournament Registration deadline**

(Fee: \$225, after this date, a late fee of \$50 applies)

Friday, January 30, 2022

### **Tournament Registration closes**

Saturday, March 5, 2022

### **Judge Training**

Saturday, March 19, 2022

### **CTOM State Tournament**

### **Southern CT State University**

The CTOM Board, problem captains and various community members are here to support you, so feel free to ask questions (a recurring theme)! CTOM is here to provide you with any information or guidance you may need as you proceed along your coaching odyssey!

