



## Team Tips (ESPECIALLY for NEW coaches)

### Planning Team Meetings

Review all OM and CTOM provided resources... the YouTube series, "Odyssey Academy" and our own CTOM 8-Unit curriculum provide a roadmap for bringing your team from their first meeting to a successful competition day.

Create a simple agenda for each team meeting, including tasks to be completed (and an associated amount of time for each). Select activities for each meeting:

1. Teach the team a skill - sewing, painting, cutting balsa, acting.
2. Do at least one spontaneous problem.
3. Include a fun (silly) activity or snack time. Non-work time is when a team truly starts to come together.
4. Brainstorm solutions to parts of the Long-Term problem -- keep paper and pencil handy for ideas... and doodles.
5. Work on Long-Term problem requirements and assign homework for independent progress on specific items (script, costumes, props, etc.)

### Celebrate Along the Way

Be sure to recognize the work being accomplished and reward the team for meeting each simple goal (special treat, a half-hour of outdoor fun time, or an extra 'hands-on' activity).

### Be a Role Model

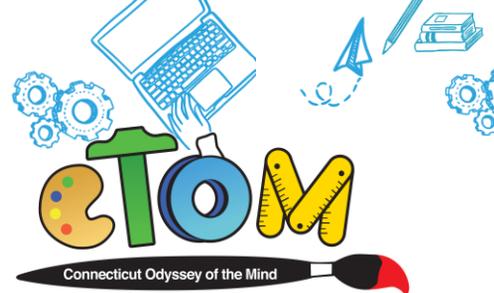
A strong team is grounded in a strong coach. Be sure to model good behavior for your team members, and always encourage respect, understanding and compassion.

### Evaluate and Improve

At the conclusion of each meeting, lead the team through a brief evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses:

- What issues did you encounter today?
- What came easily for each team member?
- What did you do well?
- Where could you improve?
- Is there a skill or concept that the team needs to review / learn?

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



## Coaches' Corner

November 2022

### CTOM RESOURCES:



**NEW 8-Unit Curriculum is AVAILABLE NOW!**

<http://ctom.org/ctom-curriculum/>



Become the best OMer you can be with Odyssey Academy! Dr. Jim Mourey— OM alum, long-time volunteer, and professor at DePaul University— offers a FREE 15-episode step-by-step video tutorial. <https://www.odysseyofthemind.com/odyssey-academy/>

### CTOM Office Hours

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

#### CTOM Office Hours

**Monday, December 5th - 7pm**

[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

**Dec Topic: there's no "I" in TEAM!**





## 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?

Please teach the team to be respectful and ALWAYS ask permission before taking anything...even from a dumpster!



## Spontaneous Spotlight

The Spontaneous portion of the competition (worth up to 100 points) requires that the team solve a problem they have never seen, before a team of judges.

Helping your team learn one another's skills and developing a collaborative spirit are critical for teams to perform well under pressure.

Spontaneous Challenges teach your team to think on their feet, work collaboratively and become mindful of their time management. Unlike the Long-Term Solution, where there is NO OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE ALLOWED, spontaneous skills can be taught.

### Speaking and Presentation Skills

Help your team to develop their public speaking skills, avoid filler words in their spontaneous answers, learn about each other, PLUS identify skills that may be vital as they develop their long-term solution.

### The Ah, Um Game

Sit the team in a circle and ask for a volunteer to go first. The team member must talk to their group about themselves for two full minutes without saying the following taboo words: "Ah", "Um", "Like", or "You Know", or pausing for 5 seconds.

As soon as a taboo word is said, the person sits down, and the clock is reset. Then the next team member stands and begins.

As the team improves, ask them to talk about their teammates and what unique skill they can use in OM. Help students to see and recognize the ability of each team member and capitalize on the strengths of ALL! You can also use the same game to help develop plots, characters and brainstorm solutions! What do you know about Arm & Hammer Baking Soda?



### Rules of Engagement

Empower the team to make a clear set of rules that will be followed during team meetings and work sessions. Giving the team ownership of the rules will promote their following the rules by choice. It also begins teaching them that in OM they are encouraged – required, actually – to do all of the work themselves!

**Suggest RULE #1: All ideas should be allowed and never criticized!**





## How to Avoid Outside Assistance!

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. 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.

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.

## Teaching *the Art of Storytelling*

Every good OM long-term solution involves a good story - a plot that leads the judges and audience through the solution while introducing interesting characters and evoking emotions like humor. Developing a theme, plot and ultimately script can be challenging for some teams. As a coach, help your team by breaking the process into manageable tasks. Here is one way you could go about it.

### Brainstorm Themes

Use a spontaneous challenge or team building exercise to brainstorm themes. Vote on 2-3 favorites. Next have the team revisit those themes. Can it be easily adapted to the selected problem? How can it be represented in costumes or props? How can it be enhanced?

### Define Characters

Everyone on the team needs to be a part of the solution. Do you have a student who does not want a speaking role? What type of character can be created that contributes to the plot, but does not require lines?

### Develop a storyline

Every good script will have an introduction, action leading up to the climax and then additional action leading to the conclusion. How will the team integrate drama, humor or the all-important team STYLE into their plot? Start simple and allow the team to add layers and interest. Encourage one or two students to write a first draft and then work with the group to adjust and improve. Don't forget to be flexible. Remember that many teams will continue to improve and adjust their solution until the day of the competition!

## Key Dates and Details:

Monday, December 5, 2022

### CTOM Office Hours

Saturday, January 7, 2023

### Coach Training B

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

### Tournament Registration deadline (including registration of Judge and Volunteer)

- Fee: \$225, after this date, a late fee of \$50 applies
- No Judge Waiver - \$250
- No Volunteer Waiver - \$100

Saturday, March 4, 2023

### Judge Training

Saturday, March 18, 2023

### CTOM State Tournament Southern CT State University

## CTOM is looking for an *Events Specialist!*

Is there a parent or friend of your team who throws the best birthday parties and loves celebrations? The CTOM Closing Ceremony Committee is looking for new members. Please have interested volunteers email Kim Kempton at [kkempton@ctom.org](mailto:kkempton@ctom.org)!

