

# Domino Build

**Materials:** Master set of dominos and 4 additional sets for groups

## Focus Area

- Developing trust within a team or group
- Communication
- Working with limited directions
- Paying attention to the details
- Dealing with “failure” and responding to something that is challenging and working with it

**Time Needed:** 45 minutes

**Group Size:** Can do up to 20 people per each set of dominoes (20-80)

## Directions

- Break class into teams
- Each team will get a full set of dominos
- Rules
  - Only 1 person from EACH team may look at the structure at a time
  - You cannot yell back to you group what they are supposed to do
  - You cannot touch the structure
  - Only 1 person from EACH team can touch the blocks at one time
  - Once you start to build up, you will have 10 minutes to complete the structure. You can arrange pieces at anytime, but only 1 person can touch the blocks at a time.
  - Would you like to have 5 minutes to strategize and develop a plan before beginning?
  - Give group approximately 25 minutes to complete the task. If they haven't started to build by 25 minutes, stop the clock and tell them to begin building. They have 10 minutes to complete the task.

## Debriefing Questions

- How were the team dynamics? How did you interact?
- If you were a spy, please raise your hand...
  - How often in real life do we question others because we feel that others are trying to “sabotage “us (ex: trust)?
- What was your first thought when you saw the structure?
  - How do you sit with something when you aren't comfortable with it?
- How does your leadership style show? – What is your leadership style?
- What was most challenging individually?
- How do you see this relating to real life?

## Quick Thoughts...

- This activity is about as challenging as it gets
- It's strategically setup this way
- People expect it to be something that isn't this complex
- Almost impossible to win
- People can feel disempowered
- Sometimes in life, we can't always “win”

**The Leadership Education And Development Office**  
**at George Mason University**

These resources have been adapted throughout the years. If you know the origin of any of these activities, please feel free to let us know so we can list the proper citation. A special thank you to the students, faculty, and staff who have contributed over the years.

