

## The Check Activity

The students, in groups of three (or four), are assigned to the following roles:

**Leader / Director**  
**Time Keeper**  
**Recorder**  
**Reporter**

1. The groups are informed that they will receive a grade for this exercise and total group participation is a large part of the grade
2. The envelopes, containing the relevant data are distributed to the group leaders with the instructions that they are to follow directions and handle the data as directed (only they will remove checks from the envelope).
3. **One piece of data (one check) is removed from the envelope.** Much of the information that can be gleaned from the check should be discussed.
4. The groups are told that they are to **remove three additional checks** (four total, at this time) and compose a scenario (a hypothesis) that “ties together” all four bits of data. Ten minutes will be allowed for this.
5. After the time has expired, the groups are then told to **remove three more checks** (seven total, at this time) and include all available data in their new/revised story. At this time, they have eight minutes to incorporate their data into their story. Encourage the recorder to keep taking good, accurate notes.
6. One last time, instruct the group **to remove their four final bits of data or four more checks** (eleven total). This will complete the data that the group will use to finish the story they will report to the class. The groups now have ten minutes to get all the details arranged.
7. When time has expired, bring the class to order and ask for volunteers to report their scenarios. Have the other groups listen closely for information that they might not as yet have “discovered”.

Conclude by stating:

1. Positive comments.
2. Pointing out that
  - science is collaborative.
  - it is important to have good note taking skills.
  - it is important to be able to interpret data.
  - it is important not to remain fixed in one's interpretation of data...(be flexible)
3. Their stories may have had to be totally re-written in order to include all data and that is actually a part of doing good science-changing theories to include/account for all known information.

Collect and grade the assignment. Have the student leader/directors return all data in their original envelopes, without looking at the remaining bits of data.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)