



THE AIRPLANE ACTIVITY: “Throwing your money away”

STEP I: THE ACTIVITY

Introduce yourselves to each other.

Instructions for Learners: Please come up with two different designs for paper airplanes that can fly at least 10 feet carrying at least seven pennies.

Instructions for Documenter/Observers: Please observe with the following question in mind: *What do you notice about the individual and group's process of building knowledge about aerodynamics and what can you point to that makes you say that?*

Watch for *interesting or important moments or shifts* in the ways ideas are being developed. Afterwards, we'd like you not just to describe, but to *interpret* how those moments advanced the knowledge-building of the group.

Please document your observations individually. You can document in any way you wish—jot down bits of conversation or notes, draw pictures or diagrams, take photos or video with your cell phones—but you must document in some way!

STEP II: SMALL GROUP DEBRIEF

Observers: Share with the learners 1-2 *interesting or important moments or shifts* regarding the ways ideas about aerodynamics were being developed and offer an interpretation of how they advanced the learning process.

Learners: Share *responses* to the documenters' observations and interpretations, and *your own reflections* about interesting or important moments or shifts regarding how or what you or the group learned about aerodynamics.

As a Small Group: Choose *one thing* you learned about documentation or how individuals and the group built knowledge about aerodynamics to share with the whole group.

STEP III: WHOLE GROUP DISCUSSION

What strikes you about the airplanes?

Small groups report *one thing* they learned about documentation or how the group built knowledge about aerodynamics.

