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Team Members: Hailey Scott, Trevor Osler, Nikita Eisenhauer

# Golf Ball Tower

## (Design and Communication exercise)

The golf ball tower was a simulation of the conditions under which Engineers are expected to work. Disguised as an exercise in design, the real challenge was communicating with a randomly assigned group of peers under logistical and time constraints in order to produce a working solution on the spot. Once our team gathered at the station, I tried to take charge of the project in order to make sure our efforts were consolidated. While the assignment was being explained, I got a little carried away and began sketching an overly elaborate design as seen in *figure 1* (top sketch). Unfortunately, I tend to be overly ambitious when taking on a creative project, hence the necessity for a well-rounded group dynamic.

Hailey had to be the voice of reason, pointing out that not only did we not have enough tape and paper to build my design, but we also lacked the time to plan and construct it. She ended up taking the role of arbiter pointing out when an idea was practical and when an alternative solution would be necessary. Her realism combined laid back personality kept the group focused on trying to produce a practical solution. Of all the members

of the group, Trevor was the most aware of the impending timeline, and made it clear that starting construction was just as important as developing a workable solution. He made the case that no matter how elegant the design at the end of the period; a sketch could not hold a golf ball 30 inches off the ground. His pragmatism gave way to Nikita's design, which entailed rolling paper long ways and banding together 3 such columns for every level above the base with horizontally cut strips of paper, using 5 columns taped to a 4 by 6 inch paper on the table as the base. The columns used in the design were very similar in size to the column in Trevor's hand captured in *figure 2*. Trevor also stressed the importance of economizing our resources, specifically, tape, a consideration I dismissed in the excitement of planning the structure that the tape would hold together.