Game Summary:

Top Tier is a social ranking game where players work together to rank a set of 8 "people" in a series of categories.

Players take turns acting as the "Tier Master" and privately ranking the chosen names across a selected category, placing them into 1 of 5 distinct tiers. The other players must then work together to guess which tier the Tier Master placed each of the names in. Scoring points based on how accurately they ranked.

Setup:

Lay out the ranking mat (cards?) so everyone can see. Write a name on each dry-erase card to start - these names will change over the course of the game, so don't worry about it too much!

Having trouble thinking of names? Here are some suggestions:
- Beloved cartoon characters (Spongebob, Homer, Bluey,)
- Characters from shows, books, movies, etc. (Michael Scott, Ron Swanson, Mr. Bean, Legolas)
- Celebrities/politicians with notable personalities (Nicki Minaj, whoever is trending on twitter)
- Mutual friends*
- Ghosts, ghouls, or other various "non-person" people (Casper, GLaDOS, R2D2, Godzilla)

*Unless you are **_all_** close friends, avoid writing the names of people in the room with you. Trust us.

Gameplay

Ranker Phase:

The Ranker flips up a category card, which will act as the *active category* for the round.

On the Ranker card, the Ranker secretly places each card in a tier, writing the corresponding card number in the appropriate tier, with the card leftmost in the tier considered the highest ranked within that tier.

The Ranker places markers on the board to indicate how many cards are in each rank.

Team Phase:

Once the Ranker has revealed the positions of all of their cards, the rest of the players discuss among themselves where they think the Ranker ranked the 8 subject cards, placing them in the appropriate tier.

The players vote as a group. Once all players lock in their vote, move onto the Scoring Phase.

Scoring Phase:

The Ranker reveals how many cards are in the correct rank. Score a point for every card in the correct rank.

Play until everyone has been the Ranker twice. Then note your high score. This is an entirely arbitrary end point, you can also just keep playing if you're having fun.

Advanced Scoring:

For a more challenging scoring approach, only score points if it is in the correct position within the rank.

Alt to playtest: Score an additional point, instead of "only" score a point.

Competitive Mode:

Split into two teams. Play at the same time, left team vs right team. Both teams play with the same category card (but different names). The team that scored more points wins.

"Zoeye Variant": In the Zoh-ie variant, instead of both teams playing at the same time, teams alternate between being the "active" team and the "observing" team. The active team completes a round like normal, with that team's Ranker ranking the names, and the rest of the players on the active team ranking the cards accordingly.

Instead of giving a score to the team, however, the active team's Ranker announces which cards were in the correct position. The observing team then has an opportunity to "solve" the round by rearranging all other cards into the correct position. If they are able to achieve this perfectly, they steal one point per corrected card. The observing team then becomes the active team and play continues until one team has reached an agreed upon number of points.

Components:
- 5 Tier cards (S, A, B, C, D, E)

- 8 blank whiteboard Subject cards
- Tier Master ranking card
- 100+ Category cards
- X amount of blank Category cards(for your own fun!)