

Networking Simulation - Handout

You are a member of a network. You know who you are connected to and whether the people you know are connected among themselves but you don't know who their other connections are.

Your goal is to get the resources you need as quickly as possible. You start with some resources – they may be what you need or not, in which case you may use them to get what you need.

Your network information (network members that you are connected to), the resources you are starting with, and the resources you need to obtain are listed on your individual sheet inside your envelope.

Rules:

1. Wear your number in a visible place at all times throughout the simulation.
2. Keep your letters in the envelope until you are ready to exchange them.
3. Your goal is to get the resources that you need (listed on your sheet) as quickly as possible.
4. To get resources, you can reach out to others who may help you.
5. You can only communicate with people with whom you have direct ties but they can communicate with others on your behalf.
6. You can only communicate in written form. You can write down anything you'd like and pass it on to anyone with whom you have a direct tie – but to no one else. You will be excluded from your network for 2 minutes if you violate this rule.
7. Note that it may not always be in your interest to share information with others. Fold your note as you pass it on so that only the person for whom the information is intended can see it.
8. To gather resources, you need to get cards with appropriate letters in your possession. To share resources, you pass your cards on to others.
9. Once you have the resources you need (if you have some that you don't need in addition to what you do need, that's OK), walk to the board, record your number and the time at which you completed the task, and turn in the resources that you needed to collect.
10. After that, you may (but don't have to) continue to participate in the simulation by communicating with your direct ties and passing on messages and resources.

Nr. 2's network (example for illustrative purposes – it does not represent Nr. 2's actual network):

