

## Jumping Your Hurdles

### 13. Think Outside The Box

**Spatial Requirements:** Regular classroom setup: little or no space required

**Activity Type:** Group

**Grades:** 3-12

**Group Size:** 2 or more

**Time:** 5-10 minutes

**Introduction:** Jumping life's hurdles requires thinking outside the box. This warm-up energizer activity will help participants do just that.

**Materials:**

- Blackboard or whiteboard
- 1 paper and pencil per student

**Activity:**

Write the following formula for the entire group to see:

$$5 + 5 + 5 = 550$$

Ask the individuals in the group to make/draw one line to make the formula correct. They are not allowed to use the (=) sign. After a few minutes, allow some small group discussion before revealing the secret.

To solve this problem, make one slanted line on the first + sign to make it a 4:

$$545 + 5 = 550$$

**Processing the Experience:**

- What was difficult about this activity?
- Did the solution surprise you? Why or why not?
- Why is thinking outside the box important when trying to jump hurdles?
- How can changing your perspective make it easier to solve your problems?
- What are some problems you face today that might require thinking outside the box?

Note: This activity can also be used to teach WhyTry's mission to other facilitators: showing youth how to think outside the box and change their lives in positive ways.