Deduction Name Game

Goal

The goal of Deduction Name Game is to be the last player to have their Secret Name guessed.

Setup

Print and hand one Secret Name paper (see next page) to each player.

Gameplay

Deduction Name Game is played in three parts—naming, reading, and guessing.

⇒ 7-17 Players

⇒ 30 Minutes

⇒ Ages 7+

⇒ Rules Written by James Hron

Naming

Each player chooses and secretly writes a name on their Secret Name paper. This is their Secret Name. Secret Names can be living people, dead people, fictional people, or even famous aliens. Secret Names cannot be of a place or setting. All Secret Names *must* fall within the category of "common knowledge" - in other words, at least a few other people playing the game should have heard of this person before. For example, Hermione Granger or Maya Angelou are both acceptable Secret Names. Your science partner from the third grade is most likely not an acceptable Secret Name.

Players should try to pick a Secret Name that won't be easily be deduced by other players.

Reading

Once each player has written a Secret Name, they will fold their secret name paper and put it in a bowl. A random player will shuffle the Secret Name papers around, and then, one by one, read the Secret Names out loud.

Each Secret Name will be read once. As the names are read, players should be trying to remember as many as possible. After all Secret Names are read, the names cannot be looked at for the rest of the game.

Guessing

Choose a random player. This player will be the Guesser. The Guesser will try to guess the secret name of another player. For example, the Guesser might ask, "Anna, is your secret name Hermione Granger?"

If the Guesser is wrong, the player who was guessed now becomes the Guesser. In the above example, Anna would become the Guesser, and she would guess the Secret Name of another player.

If the Guesser is correct, the player they guessed joins the team of the Guesser, shares the names they remember, and the Guesser gets to take another guess. In the above example, Anna would move over to join the team of the Guesser, and the Guesser would get another chance to guess the Secret Name of another player. The game continues like this as player deduce, using past guesses and social understanding of the other players, who wrote what secret name down!

Winning the Game

The last remaining player whose name has not been guessed wins the game!

A Challenge with Remembering

Like other memory games, Deduction Name Game relies on remembering a number of Secret Names to start the round. Players will find that the larger their team, the better chance they have to remember other Secret Names.

In the event that no one can remember any of the remaining Secret Names, gameplay is paused. Each remaining player will reveal the first letter of their Secret Name. Then, gameplay resumes. If still none of the remaining Secret Names can be remembered, more letters of each Secret Name will be revealed. This continues until a Secret Name is remembered, and gameplay can continue.

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