

Julia Holleman's

BATTLE FOR THE END OF THE LINE

A unique interpolation of the “Beastie Boys” improv game that teaches how to use context, rhythm, freestyle rap and crowd control to effectively & predictably communicate ideas.

2 BATTLERS, 1 AUDIENCE

Flip the Script: you can split the audience in two, and have them line up vertically in front of each battler. After Battler 1 and 2 each say a rhyme, they go to the end of the line and the next up steps up. Each line will only finish the rhymes from their team.

Step 1 NAME!

Find a one-syllable name (ex. Jane, Bob) by asking the audience for one.

Flip the Script: use two syllable names

Step 2 BATTLE!

The first battler always starts with:

“I met ‘em at a party and their name was (one-syllable name)”.

The audience (or their team) says the name. This first line establishes the flow, or rhythm that the battlers will keep. The audience is encouraged to pay attention to the flow and say their line in time.

Flip the Script: have them battle to a beat.

The second battler must come up with a line that ends in a rhyme with the one-syllable name. If the battler provides enough context clues in the Set Up (the first part of the rhyme), the audience should all be able to correctly guess the Punchline (the rhyming word). The second line does not have to interact with the first, but it often helps to build a shared story.

A winner is determined when the audience (or team) either fails to say the Punchline in time, or if they disagree on the Punchline.

Ex. Battler 1: “I met her at a party and her name was...” Audience : “JANE!”

Battler 2: “Then I fell on my face, I was feeling the...” Audience : “PAIN!”

Battler 1: “So I stepped outside into the pouring...” Audience : “RAIN!”

Battler 2: “And then I just got...” Audience : “Insane? On a plane? A brain?!”

BATTLER 1 WINS

Step 3 DEBRIEF!

Which punchlines were easier to guess? Why? How does understanding context clues help you win?

For the Punchlines you missed, how could the Set Up have been phrased differently?

How did it feel when it was your turn to battle? What was the easiest part? What was the hardest?

Did your opponent use the word you were planning on using? How did you react?

How important was it to maintain the flow?