

Ground Rules for Wordplay (Scrabble) Day

1. Volunteers who draw names to form groups must draw them at random. Looking into the bag is cheating, just as it is in the game of Scrabble.
2. Divide the group into two teams, and appoint one group member to serve as scorekeeper for both teams (two teams, one scorekeeper). Do not use a calculator. The math is not difficult, and Wordplay Days are designed to offer time and space for face-to-face collaboration and problem solving free of digital distractions.
3. Always hold the bag over the table to prevent tiles from spilling onto the floor. If tiles spill, stop the game and collect them.
4. Do not twirl the tile bag in the air. (See rule 3.)
5. Use your inside voice.
6. Practice good sportsmanship. Wordplay Days are exercises in collaboration (and also opportunities for increasing your word power, as well as your critical thinking and spatial relations skills). Do not tell your teammates or your opponents that they're stupid, they suck, etc. (There's too much bad sportsmanship in the world already.)
7. If you think your opponents have made an invalid play (a misspelled word or one that's simply not a word), tell me that your team wants to challenge a word, and I will consult *The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary*.

Violating one or more of the ground rules will lower your grade for Wordplay Day.

Wordplay Day Grading

1. Your Wordplay grade for the day will not be determined by your team's score. Instead, every player will receive full credit for submitting your group's completed score sheet and complying with the rules listed above. Though you may not have time to finish your game, your group's score sheet should include all of the following information:
 - The course section and date

- Each player's first and last name
 - Each word played
 - A running tally
2. Omitting any of the information listed above will lower your group's grade.
 3. Any word on your score sheet that is misspelled or isn't permitted in Scrabble (a proper noun, a non-existent word) will lower your group's grade. See rule 7.