WHAT IS A SMART ACTIVITY?
As you work with Girls Inc. staff to plan activities, it is important to be sure that you are reinforcing SMART principles and ideas.

TWENTY-TWO QUESTIONS TO TELL WHETHER AN ACTIVITY IS SMART**

Does the Activity Involve Girls in the Physical World?

1. Are participants using specialized equipment and resources?

2. Is the activity messy, physically challenging, or “gross and interesting”?

3. Does the activity force participants to examine preconceptions or “think outside of the box”?

4. Do girls construct, create, break down, or analyze things as part of this activity?

5. Do girls use their hands, bodies, and senses for things other than writing?

6. Does the activity allow for anything unplanned or unexpected to happen?

Does the Activity Help Girls Make Connections?

12. Do participants work together with each other and with adults?

13. Are participants talking about the activity as they work?

14. Do participants evaluate what they’ve done and reflect on what it means?

15. Do participants have fun?

Are Girls Full Participants in the Activity?

16. Does the activity show participants something about how the world works?

17. Do participants connect the activity to nontraditional careers, particularly careers in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics?

18. Does the activity give participants a wider view of the roles women can undertake?

19. Does it help participants understand what they are learning in school?

20. Does it deepen their sense of community?

21. Does it relate to their personal experiences?

22. Does it make them more confident and eager to try something new?

**If you can answer YES to 10 or more of these questions, the activity is probably SMART.
SEVEN QUESTIONS TO TELL WHETHER AN ACTIVITY IS NOT SMART

Is the Activity a Traditional One for Girls?
1. Does it involve sewing or cooking as ends in themselves?
2. Is its main component cutting, pasting, or coloring?
3. Is its chief goal to produce an ornament or decoration?

Will the Activity Remind Girls of a Class They Hate?
4. Does it demand performance under time pressure?
5. Does it involve more listening than participating?
6. Does it require girls to use pencil and paper more than their hands?
7. Does it require girls to search for one right answer?

**If you answer YES to one or more of these questions, the activity may not be SMART.

SMART activities are intentional and compensatory—what does this mean to you?

Intentional:

____________________
____________________
____________________

Compensatory:

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