The Ring

Challenge
Your TASK is to create a tower that will hold weight while balanced on a ring.

The Scene
In the center of the floor is a ball, around which a cardboard ring has been placed.

Procedure
Part One (5 minutes): Use the materials provided to build a tower on the ring that is as tall as possible. The tower may not touch the ball or the floor. Your tower will need to hold weights for score. You may practice adding weight Part One, but at the end of Part One, all weight must be removed from the structure. At the end of Part One, the Appraisers will measure the height of the structure.

Part Two (1 minute): Place weight on the structure. The weights must hold for five seconds to count for score. If you did not finish building your structure in Part One, you may continue in Part Two. When your structure is complete, tell the Appraisers. Time will stop briefly for the Appraisers to measure the height of the structure. You may then use any remaining time to add weight.

Materials
3 straws
4 mailing labels
4 index cards
2 rubber bands
1 sheet of newspaper
3 paper clips
15 weights (heavy washers)

The mailing labels may not be attached to the ring.

Scoring
A. 2 points for each weight held
B. 20 points if your structure only touches the ring
C. 2 points (40 points maximum) for each inch of height of your tower
D. 20 points for how well your team works together
**Note to TM:**

The ball should be a basketball, kickball, or playground ball that is not attached to the floor and allowed to roll around freely. The ring is composed of heavy cardboard. For a beginner team, make the ring 3” in diameter. For an advanced team, the ring should be 1” in diameter.

When setting up the problem, the ring should encircle the ball similarly to how Saturn’s rings encircle the planet.