



12.4 Debate Millionaire

This activity reinforces basic debate concepts. It is a fun activity that allows you to get a sense of which debate concepts students understand well and which are not as clear to them. It is also an easy way for students to review what they know. It is modeled after the television show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

Time Allotment

Approximately one class period

Objectives

By the end of this activity, students will:

- review important debate terms and concepts.
- engage in collaborative learning, reinforcing material to which they have already been introduced.

Materials and Preparation

A list of questions that review important debate terms and concepts of varying difficulty. In order to prepare for the game, rank the difficulty of the questions.

That way, when you ask questions that become increasingly difficult, you will be able to select the appropriate questions with greater ease.

Method

The game operates similarly to the game show. Three students (instead of just one) go up as a team to sit in the "hot seat." The students in the "hot seat" can confer with each other, but must come up with an answer within a limited (30 second) timeframe. After discussion, one of them must answer the question. The students must alternate so that each of them answers one question out of every three.

If they answer the question accurately, they get the points associated with the question they asked. In addition, every time the students get the answer right, you ask debate trivia questions that become increasingly difficult. If they answer the question inaccurately, they lose and are no longer in the "hot seat".

Every 4-5 questions, there should be a milestone question. If the students answer the milestone question correctly, they are guaranteed the point-value of that question. For instance, if the milestone question is worth 1,000 points and the students answer the question correctly, they will get 1,000 points.

If they get up to the milestone question, but answer incorrectly, they will lose the points for all of the questions that they answered correctly. Thus, the only way to ensure that they receive points for a turn is to answer a milestone question correctly. The point-scale continues to increase until 1,000,000, as in the game show.