



ACTIVITY:

Rock/Paper/Scissors

Instructions

1. Invite two student volunteers to come to the front of the classroom, and ask them if they know the rules of rock/paper/scissors. Have them list the rules aloud for the class to hear (rock beats scissors, scissors beats paper, paper beats rock).
2. Play one round of R/P/S with standard rules. Award the winner of the first round a prize (candy, Takis, bonus points.)
3. Change up the rules. Explain to the students that the old rules do not apply. The volunteers can come up with any tool they want (e.g. a volcano, the black plague, a nuclear bomb) for this next round. They will, however, have to justify why their tool should beat their opponent's. You as the teacher will be the judge as to whose tool is more powerful.
4. Play a round or two with these new rules.
 - a. As judge, try to be as whimsical as possible with your decisions – your aim is to have the students become frustrated because they cannot figure out how to win.
5. When you feel that they have had enough, you can give both students all a reward for their frustration.
6. Ask them these questions:
 - a. How did you feel when you had to play the game without any rules?
 - b. Why are rules important, especially in a game?
 - c. Do you think it is important to have rules to have a better life?
7. Use this activity to engage the students in a discussion about the rule of law
 - a. In most communities, large or small, rules are required to ensure a quality of life for its citizens.
DISCUSSION QUESTION: What happens when a society has no laws?
 - b. Rule of law is the idea that everyone is subject to the same rules, no matter their status.
DISCUSSION QUESTION: Why are communities better off when everyone agrees to the same sets of rules?
DISCUSSION QUESTION: How does it feel when the law is applied differently to one person than it is to another?
 - c. America is a large community, and needs a robust set of laws to ensure our nation's safety and security.
DISCUSSION QUESTION: What is our national set of rules called? What is its purpose?