

Intro to Sport

What qualifies something as a sport?

Oxford Dictionary defines sport as "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or a team competes against another or others for entertainment."

SPORTS CASE STUDY: Basketball v. competitive eating

Take note of the qualities associated with sports in the following clips:

NBA playoffs (basketball)	Nathan's hot dog eating (competitive eating)

Is competitive eating a “sport” in the true sense of the definition?

MINI “SPORTS” DEBATES

What “counts” as a sport these days? Is spikeball a sport? What about esports? That’s the question we’re going to debate.

→ **Sports to consider:** spikeball, fishing, poker, NASCAR, cheerleading, esports, crossfit, ping pong

You are going to:

1. Research your sport
 - a. What is your sport about?
 - b. Who can compete at this sport?
 - c. What goes into “training” for your sport?
 - d. What competitions exist in your sport? How competitive are they? Can you win money/recognition for winning?
 - e. Are there any well-known athletes in your sport? What have they done that make them stand out?
 - f. How does your sport fit the definition we outlined on the other page?
2. Prepare some opposition research to use against your opponents’ sport.
 - a. Where can you pick holes in your opponents’ argument? What makes their sport less legitimate or sporty?
3. Debate with the opposing group over who’s sport is more of a true sport.
 - a. The class will vote on which team made a more convincing argument for their sport.

MINI "SPORTS" DEBATES

What "counts" as a sport these days? Is spikeball a sport? What about esports? That's the question we're going to debate.

Your "sport": _____

Evidence/arguments in **SUPPORT** of it as a sport:

Possible arguments **AGAINST** it being considered a sport **AND** how you might counter those points:

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OPPOSITION RESEARCH

You will be debating AGAINST this sport: _____

Evidence/arguments AGAINST your opponents' sport:

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Debate rounds

1. Opening statements:

- a. *Group A*: together your group will get 2 minutes to deliver your “statement of greatness” (history, facts and more about why your sport is totally a sport and the superior sport)
- b. Group B: Your opponents will get 30 seconds to disagree and pick your argument apart.
- c. Group B: 2 minutes to deliver their “statement of greatness”
- d. *Group A*: 30 seconds to disagree

Write a draft of your opening statement below:

2. **By any other name** (Pretend that the side you’re arguing for doesn’t have a name. Come up with a few alternative names for your sport.)

_____ or _____

3. **Sneak attack (surprise round)**

4. **Micro-round: alien encounter** (Imagine you've been sent to Earth to gather information on this seemingly bizarre sport. You've been tasked with delivering a field report to your alien brethren when you return. What would you share with them that explains what you saw/learned?)

How would you describe your sport/sporting event to a bunch of aliens?

5. **The final 6** (What are the last 6 words you want to leave the judges with to convince them that your side is best?)
