



Questions for Classroom Discussion

Sports Gambling

- **How much sports gambling currently takes place? Is it an issue that needs to be addressed?**

- ⇒ Consider that billions of dollars are bet on sporting events each year, and most of that is in the form of illegal bets (gambling is legal in very few places, such as Las Vegas)
- ⇒ Consider that if people are still betting on sports even though it is illegal, they aren't being protected by the regulations and supervisions of other industries (instead, "organized criminals" are often the ones making the rules)
- ⇒ Consider that most "gamblers" are making small bets, but that still makes them "criminals" if all sports gambling is illegal... this puts both the gamblers (who are making bets) and law officials (who should be stopping them) in an awkward position

- **What are reasons why sports betting SHOULD be allowed?**

- ⇒ Consider that people already bet on sports (regardless of the laws), and that betting on sporting events is simply another way for fans to interact with the game and make it more exciting
- ⇒ Consider that most bets are very small and harmless... when gambling is illegal, these casual sports bettors become "criminals" (which also becomes a waste of time for law enforcement)
- ⇒ Consider that people are going to bet on sports anyway, but when it is illegal it cannot be properly regulated and supervised... instead, "organized criminals" become the ones making the rules instead of elected officials

- **What are reasons why sports betting SHOULD NOT be allowed?**

- ⇒ Consider that gambling is a high risk behavior, and can even become an addiction... gambling is also often associated with violence and even drugs and alcohol
- ⇒ Consider the potential for athletes to "throw" a game or intentionally alter a game if the stakes are high enough and the athlete is paid for his or her cooperation
- ⇒ Consider that sports represent everything that is good in people (such as physical ability, competition, teamwork, etc.), while gambling touches on the darker side of human nature... and it isn't a good idea to merge the two