



Questions for Classroom Discussion

Let the Games Begin...

What are minimum standards a sport should meet to be considered in the Winter Olympics?

- ⇒ Consider that since it is the “Winter” Olympics, the sport should be “practiced on snow or ice”
- ⇒ Consider where the sport is played, and by how many people around the world (as well as its fan-base)
- ⇒ Consider that there must be a clear set of rules that are followed by everyone who participates in the sport, regardless of where or on what level

What might keep a sport from being included in the Winter Olympics?

- ⇒ Consider safety concerns, and whether the potential for harm overshadows the meaningfulness of the sport
- ⇒ Consider the limitations about who participates on a sport (for example, is it only males or females, or do all of the participants reside in one part of the world?)
- ⇒ Consider various terrain or venue obstacles—even if a sport can be played in snow or ice, would there need to be particular locations or extreme terrain to make it practical?

A number of popular winter sports are considered “extreme” (see the stimulus items). Can these be altered to make them more suitable for the Olympics?

- ⇒ Consider adding additional safety features so that the sport can be done without high risk of injury
- ⇒ Consider changing the venue or terrain so that it can be done in a more controlled environment
- ⇒ Consider the need to establish clear rules for all competitors, thus eliminating the need to “push the boundaries” of what is acceptable