

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL: NO TRY-OUTS?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. To analyze all aspects of a situation.
2. To foster evaluation of differing points of view.
3. To learn responsibility for a decision on behalf of others.
4. To learn through role play.
5. To use *logos*, *ethos*, and *pathos*.

PROCEDURE:

1. Place students into various groupings. For example, choose three separate groups – a group of parents, a group of school officials, and a group of students. Another option is to have two large groups. Within each group, assign students to various positions – school board members, principals, teachers, coaches, parents, and students.
2. Give students a handout with the situation described below.
3. After discussion, each group must determine the best policy for Springfield Middle School.
4. Ask each group to report and justify its decision.

ESTIMATED TIME:

25-30 minutes

GROUPING:

Small groups

In order to eliminate the stigma of rejection, Springfield Middle School is considering a “no try-out” policy for extra-curricular activities. Discuss both the benefits and drawbacks. Determine the logistical impact this ruling will have on finances, time, manpower, facilities, transportation, and parental involvement. The guidelines are as follows;

1. As long as students are committed to the activity (they attend all meetings or practices and give their personal best), they are automatically accepted as fully-participating members of the organization, club, or team.
2. Students must maintain at least a C average to be eligible.
3. This decision excludes national organizations which set their own policies, such as Beta Club and National Honor Society.
4. Students will be told that this “no try-out” rule applies only to their middle school, and that it will not be the policy followed in any other school, especially high school.