



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Let's Debate: Big-money Football

*An extension of "Can PSG become the Manchester United of France?"*

Read "Can PSG become the Manchester United of France?" (page 23, *What's Up* October 2017). Many football clubs and fans are not happy with the huge amounts of money being paid to buy good players. They say it spoils the sport. On the other hand, the money has made dreams come true for the best players, clubs, and managers. As there are two sides to this coin, it is a complex issue. Have a debate in your class to help you think through what is happening.

**THE MOTION – Big money in football is spoiling the true spirit of the game.**

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Split your class into two large divisions: Division 1 for the motion, and Division 2 against the motion. You can either draw lots or sign up for the side you prefer on a first-come-first-served basis.
2. Select four debaters and a chairperson to represent your division. The rest of the division members provide support for your debating team.
3. Gather information about the motion. Reflect on the differing views out there.
4. Brainstorm by conducting a ROUND ROBIN within your division. Agree on five good questions and write each on a separate sheet of flipchart paper. Then, form five groups within your division.

Round 1: Group A works on Question 1, Group B on Question 2, Group C works on Question 3, and so on. Each group writes down key points in response to its Round 1 question. Then, at the end of five minutes, each group passes its Round 1 sheet to the group on its right to start Round 2.

Round 2: Group B gets Question 1, Group C gets Question 2, Group D gets Question 3, and so on.

By the fifth round, every group should have had a chance to respond to all five questions. You can add points or comment on earlier groups' points. Round Robins are a great way to get everyone's input, building on each others' points as you go along.

Sample questions (You only need five questions): *Why is big money in football such an issue? What are the good points about clubs being able to buy the best players? How is this not a good practice? What is the true spirit of football? Can money affect this true spirit? If so, how? What are some solutions? And, so on.*

5. Develop your team's debating points using the Round Robin's input. Prepare supporting data. Don't write full speeches – your debaters need the flexibility to be spontaneous and responsive to their opponents.
6. Conduct the debate, with the two chairpersons in charge. As a class, set time limits. And, select your panel of judges. The team for the motion starts and ends the debate. First speakers present their teams' respective positions. Last speakers wrap up. You may also wish to have a few minutes after the third speakers for the audience (or, floor) to speak. Whichever side wins, the whole class benefits from having participated in this exercise!