



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Free-for-all Debate

Rolling Stones Gather No Moss

An activity of "A family road trip that lasted 22 years"

"A rolling stone gathers no moss" is an old saying that you may have heard of. In some ways, the Zapp family may be likened to rolling stones because of their nomadic lifestyle. To find out more, read "**A family road trip that lasted 22 years**" (page 15, *What's Up* May 2022). From your standpoint, what are the pros and cons of such a lifestyle?

Have a free-for-all debate in your class to help you construct your own understanding of the Zapp family's quality of life. Unlike traditional debates which have only four speakers per team, this free-for-all format allows for any number of speakers from each side.

THE MOTION

"That the nomadic lifestyle of the Zapps is like the proverbial 'rolling stones gather no moss'."

PREPARE FOR THE DEBATE

1. Split your class into two halves: one side **for the motion**, and the other side **against the motion**. You can either draw lots or sign up for the side you prefer.
2. Get ready for the debate by having each team's members seated together, facing the other team. Each team selects a captain. During the debate, the team's captain decides who gets to speak and in which order. The **captains** double up as timekeepers.
3. As a team, brainstorm the motion. Jot down key points. You may surf the internet to better understand the rolling-stone saying. Think of ways in which the saying applies (and does not apply) to the Zapps. Don't write full sentences. Instead, write only words and phrases so that you can debate more spontaneously.

CONDUCT THE DEBATE

4. Every speaker gets only five minutes. The team for the motion starts and ends the debate. The teams take turns for as many rounds as your class has time for. During a team's turn, only one speaker from that team gets to speak. When you want to speak, put up your hand and wait for your captain to pick you.
5. If you wish to select winners, then the whole class votes for the three best speakers from each side. Otherwise, your class may prefer to enjoy the debate without worrying about winning (or losing). That way, everyone remains relaxed and focused on the arguments being voiced.

REFLECT ON THE DEBATE

6. After the debate, reflect on whether the motion gave you food for thought. Were there ways in which the Zapp lifestyle helped you to be more aware of your own quality of life? Share your thoughts and feelings with a friend.