

Economic Monopoly

Purpose: to experience “trickle down” economics and to examine the wage gap

Students will pick a role out of a bowl. The options include: immigrant, poor, middle class and wealthy.

Immigrants will spend their first 2 rounds in jail and start with $50

Poor person starts with $100 less than everyone else. Poor will only receive $20 when passing Go because they have to pay for insurance and medical bills

Middle class has no changes. Middle class will receive $50 less when they pass Go to pay taxes and insurance

Wealthy start with an extra $100. Wealthy receive an extra $50 when they pass Go.

Randomly, I will pick someone to go to jail – middle class for identity theft; poor for theft; immigration status; Ponzi scheme for wealthy

Hotel and house owners will occasionally have to deal with randomly selected natural disasters which will result in losing buildings.

In the end, depending on status, students will receive candy distributed based on status.

Assignment:

Reflect on the game. Write an essay (1/2 to 1 page) describing how it worked. Compare it today’s society. Was the game fair? Why or why not? Do you have any proposed solutions? How does this game demonstrate the wage gap? This also shows how the idea of “trickle-down” economics operates. In theory, tax cuts to the wealthy would mean more investment in capital resulting in economic expansion. They have more money to expand industry resulting in more jobs and eventually the wealth reaches the lower classes. What do you think about this based on what we have discussed in class and your experience with this game?