

The Umm.. Game

DEBATING & PUBLIC
SPEAKING RESOURCES



Masters Academy

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On the Spot (The Umm.. Game)

Classroom Activity

Outline

Write the FAIL acrostic on the board.

F.A.I.L Acrostic

F illers	Overused words (Um, Like, But etc.)
A pprehension	Buying time (Long pauses, Drawn out words etc.)
I rrelevant	Stay on topic (No tangents)
L ists	More than two examples (I like sports - such as basketball, soccer, cricket, netball...)

Choose a student to volunteer and have them stand in front of the other students. Using the stimulus questions below, ask each student for a short response with a reason why they could justify their opinion. Students who commit a FAIL should sit down on the spot.

As the game progresses, and students become more aware of the overuse of 'um' and 'like' try adding extra words or challenges to the list of restricted phrases. i.e. eye contact, gestures, particular words.

Starting Stimulus Questions:

- Do you think that public transport should be free?
- Do you think that we should stop celebrating Australia Day?
- Do you think that all kids should have some kind of pet?
- Do you think that all classes should be forced to put on a play at the end of the year?
- Do you think that all kids should be given pocket money?
- Do you think that politicians should be paid more money?
- Do you think that we should provide free internet to all people in Australia?
- Do you think that there should be a train line in the northern beaches?
- Do you think that Rice Bubbles should change their name?
- Do you think that we should change the colour of your school uniform?
- Do you think that we should allow teachers to decide our school leaders?
- Do you think that Taylor Swift deserves to be so popular?

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Further Stimulus Questions

Intermediate Stimulus Questions:

- What subject would you say is the worst at school and why?
- What do you think about introducing the teaching of driver education in year 9?
- What place in the world do you think is the most dangerous and why?
- What kind of activity would you classify as adventurous and why?
- What super power would you choose out of Invisibility, Mind Reading and Future Telling and why?
- What do you think is a better TV show out of 'The Bachelor' and 'X Factor' and why?
- What would be the first thing that you would do in the Big Brother household and why?
- What would be the top of your 'Bucket List' and why?
- What do you think the best characteristic of a human being is and why?
- What is your favourite NGO (Charity or Advocacy Group) and why?
- What would be your plan for the zombie apocalypse and why would it be effective?
- What do you think the scariest thing in life is and why?
- What type of music do you think is the most boring and why?
- What is better out of board games or video games and why?
- What do you think is the most important profession in the world and why?
- What do you think the best soft drink is and why?

Advanced Stimulus Questions:

Ask students for more specificity answer these questions in detail, providing at least a 1 minute response after directly answering the first question.

- Who is your favourite celebrity and why?
- Who is going to win in a popularity contest between Kim Kardashian and Justin Timberlake and why?
- Given a choice between an English or a Maths teacher, which one should 'run' your school?
- Would you rather wear out of a skirt or pants and why?
- Do you think that being a vegetarian is 'legitimate' and why?
- Do you think that 'money is the root of all evil'? Why?
- Do you think that we should force all people to read Harry Potter?
- Do you think that we should invent 'hover boards'?
- Do you think that the smart phone was a positive invention for society?