

Question #1

Best in Class

Modified from *World Café Discussion*

Purpose of Assignment

By working in several different groups, you will discuss the article “Best in Class” by Margaret Talbot and gain a better understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of selecting high school valedictorians.

Directions

1. You will begin in a group of 5 or 6 students. Please select one student who will serve as the **Table Leader**. This person will be responsible for reading this handout to the group and recording important information from the discussion. At the end of the period, the Table Leader will also summarize information about this question for the entire class.
2. Please discuss the following question as a group. The **Table Leader** should record important information discussed. You will have approximately 10 minutes (a little longer for the first round.) As you discuss the question, you may refer to information from the article as well your own experiences or information that pertains to the topic.
3. At the end of each round, I will tell group members to move. All group members EXCEPT the **Table Leader** will move to another group. Spread out to different groups. You should NOT travel together as a group. You will address a different question each round.
4. Beginning with the second round, the **Table Leader** should begin by reading the question below and summarizing information already discussed by previous groups.

Question

What problems do schools that select valedictorians encounter? You may cite problems reported in the essay as well as potential problems you determine on your own.

Question #2

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Question

Why should schools have valedictorians? What purpose does this position serve? What are the positive aspects of selecting a valedictorian?

Question #3

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Question

What rules for naming a valedictorian should schools establish?

Question #4

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Question

Why are schools experiencing more problems with valedictorians today as opposed to years past?

Question #5

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Question

Should schools post class rank on transcripts so students see this ranking throughout their high school years? Why is this process good? Why is it bad?