The Game of K-12 Life

Advancement Project

gsanetwork
FIVE EASY RULES OF THE GAME OF K-12 LIFE

1 – Earn grades and GPA points for each of the four challenges.
2 – Roll specific numbers to get the best grade.
3 – Be careful! If your team does not roll those specific numbers, you may get suspended, expelled, or arrested. An arrest = game over!!
4 – After completing all of the challenges, calculate your team’s GPA.
5 – To graduate, your GPA must be higher than a 2.5, and you cannot have an arrest.

ROLL CALL!

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Meet the Students: Dylan!

- Lives with mother, father, and two younger sisters in a five bedroom house.

- His father works and his mother stays home, allowing her to go to school for field trips and parent meetings.

- Hobbies include basketball, skateboarding, playing video games.

- Likes school, because they have all of the newest technology—everyone gets to use an iPad in class.

- Hardest thing to deal with is that his team lost in the semi-finals last year.

Dylan is a white student from Long Island, New York. To win the Game of K-12 Life, Dylan must avoid rolling a 2 or 3.
Meet the Students: Christopher!

- Lives with grandparents, who live in better part of Chicago than where mom lives.

- Mom cannot live with them because it would not be easy work commute. Dad lives in Chicago, but does not see him that often.

- Hobbies include football, basketball, piano, writing music, competing in slam poetry competitions.

- Liked school until high school, where he is unable to complete certain assignments due to no technology and textbooks.

- Hardest thing to deal with is that his friend’s little sister was killed in a drive by shooting last year.

Christopher is a black student from Chicago, Illinois. To win the Game of K-12 Life, Christopher must roll only a 2.
Meet the Students: Beth!

- Lives with father, two older brothers and younger sister, all of whom left Mexico and crossed into the U.S.

- Mom still lives in Mexico with parents and baby brother. Father and brothers work as day laborers.

- Hobbies include singing, dancing, fashion, reading.

- Always scared to go to school, which is crowded, old, and full of gangs. Also doesn’t always understand instructions in English.

- Hardest thing to deal with is not being with her entire family, and that she will never see them again.

Beth is an undocumented Latina student from Denver, Colorado. To win the Game of K-12 Life, Beth must roll only a 2 or 3.
Meet the Students: Lisa!

- Lives with aunt, three cousins, older brother, and grandparents in mixed race household.

- Parents’ office was transferred to Houston because of Katrina, and they both still work there.

- Hobbies include dancing and cheerleading, poetry, going to church, and youth organizing.

- Student at a new charter high school, and school experience has improved since being involved in a youth organizing group.

- Hardest thing to deal with was Hurricane Katrina, where she lost lots of friends and loved ones.

Lisa is a biracial student from New Orleans, Louisiana. To win the Game of K-12 Life, Lisa must roll only a 2, 3, or 4.
Meet the Students: Sarah!

- Lives with mother and grandmother. Has siblings but have their own families now. Father died when she was a baby.

- Hobbies include playing outside, riding her bike, and swimming.

- Doesn’t like school, because people call her names and bully her, and she gets in trouble for pushing the students and yelling back at them.

- Hardest thing to deal with is disappointing her mother, especially when Sarah is not performing well in school.
Meet the Students: Ayden!

- Lives with parents and two sisters, but only recently moved back after coming out as queer. Family was placed in Japanese internment camps during World War II.

- Hobbies include video games, reading mysteries, drawing, writing short stories, and GSA club.

- Doesn’t like school, as he never felt like he fit in, and often felt his peers could tell he was different and made fun of him because of his Asian ancestry.

- Hardest thing to deal with is coming out, being kicked out of his home, and his father threatening to disown him. Has also had thoughts of suicide due to constant bullying. GSA club has been very helpful, however.
Let’s play....

The Game of K-12 LIFE
Challenge #1 - Late to the Gate

• Finished your cereal and ready to go to school!
• But mom is running late…
• Now you are late, too!

What happens next?
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Sarah is a student with a learning disability from Miami, Florida. To win the Game of K-12 Life, **Sarah must roll only a 2, 3, or 4.**

Ayden is a queer student from Oakland, California. To win the Game of K-12 Life, **Ayden must roll only a 2, 3, 4, or 5.**
Reality Check #1

- 2004-2009: 47,000 daytime curfew tickets in L.A.
- 88% to black or Latino students
- Cost $250 each + court time!

2012

Los Angeles’s Community Rights Campaign of the Labor Community Strategy Center successfully passed an amendment rolling back these unfair practices.
Challenge # 2 – Wearing White

• 4th grade, new charter school
• Wearing your new white shirt
• …But it’s against the dress code!

What happens next?
## List of the Students in The Game of K-12 Life

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Reality Check #2

- 150 kids punished in Orlando
- Concerted effort?
- Detention, suspensions and arrest

2013

Philadelphia's Youth United for Change won a provision in a new discipline code protecting gender non-conforming students from discrimination based on the dress code.
Challenge #3 – Don’t Bother Me

- 8th grade, long week
- Teacher calls on you
- Inappropriate joke
- Apology

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Reality Check #3

- 2010-2011 in Florida:
  - 16,337 arrests/referrals for disruptive behavior
  - Minor offenses
  - Students of color – “disorderly conduct,” “disrupting a school function”

2013

Buffalo's Citizen Action of New York and Alliance for Quality Education won a new discipline code which calls for preventions and interventions designed to get at a root of a student's disruptive behavior.
Challenge #4 – Billy the Bully

• Fall semester, senior year
• At the football game
• Run into Billy the bully
• Things escalate
• Fight?

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Miami, FL - Argument over lunch money
  – Student almost charged with attempted murder
Chicago, IL – Food fight
  – 25 middle school students arrested & jailed

For several years, because of a campaign by Padres y Jovenes Unidos in Denver, Colorado, Denver Public Schools have used restorative justice to deal with fights. As a result, Denver’s schools have seen a decrease in fights, suspensions, and expulsions, and improved school climates and graduation rates.
Graduation Day!

What’s your GPA?

4.0 GPA: Valedictorian!

3.0-3.9 GPA: Graduate high school

2.5-2.9 GPA: Graduate high school, but marks on record and more limited options

Under 2.5 GPA: Alternative education and juvenile detention

Arrested?: Why were you arrested?
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