

BASEBALL GAME by Mareta Van Rens

A game that I have found to be fun to play in an Accounting class is a baseball game. It has the advantage of being something familiar so it's easy for the students to learn the rules. Here's how it works. You draw a diagram of a baseball diamond on the board and beside that you write the names of two teams. To keep score, also make a chart to indicate how many runs have been made and the number of outs and what inning it is. Then you divide your class into two teams. It works well to have them sit on opposite sides of the classroom.

You can determine which team starts first by flipping a coin. Then you, as the pitcher, ask the first student a question about your subject—accounting. If he or she takes a long time answering then you begin counting strikes, perhaps allowing ten seconds between each one, until the player strikes out, and then you mark one “out” on the board. A player is also out if he or she answers incorrectly. On the other hand, if the answer is correct, that player goes to first base. You then ask the second player a question, and if the answer is right, he or she goes to first base and pushes the first player to second base. Each question advances the players around the diamond by one base until the bases are loaded. If the next student answers correctly, then he or she pushes everyone else around the bases until the player on third base comes home and then that team has one run. You continue playing until that team has three outs, at which time the other team is up to bat.

You will see that the whole class concentrates on the questions as they are asked and genuine suspense develops as each player tries to answer and get on base. If you play this game regularly, you will find that your students begin studying more so as to know the answers. Thus positive peer pressure is at work as all the students want to be able to get on base so as to make a good showing in the competition.

These are the basic rules of play, but to make it more interesting, you can have four levels of questions prepared from which the students can choose. You then can ask the student what kind of question (or pitch) he or she would like. There could be easy first base questions, harder second base questions, very hard third base questions, and special home run questions. That way each student could participate at his or her own level, the game becomes more interesting. An outstanding student could produce as many as four runs in a grand slam by answering a home run question when the bases are loaded.

The day before you play the game, you could have students write questions (and the answer) on a 3”x 5” card to be used in the game and hand them in to the teacher. The teacher can then sort these cards as to whether they will be used for single, double, triple or home run questions. The teacher can then write additional questions on index cards as is necessary to insure an adequate variety of questions from which the students can choose. You should have four piles of cards then before the game begins.

Put a base in each corner of the room so the students can actually go around the bases. You can have students pretend they are up to bat by designating a certain place for them to stand when answering a question.

The teacher can decide how you want to form the teams. One way that makes the teams more balanced is for the teacher to choose the teams based on each student's overall grade in the classroom. The teacher can just assign students to a team then and no one has bad feelings about being chosen last. This game is a fun way to spend a day in Accounting class!