

# “Oh, the Games People Play”

Presented at

UIL Capital Conference

June 26-27, 2024

by Ann Shofner

UIL Consultant – Extemp

[cashof@aol.com](mailto:cashof@aol.com)

# Extemp Games

## Game #1 Follow the Leader

---

Divide students into groups. Try to split up your more experienced extempors with your novices. Give each group a list of countries. Set an allotted amount of time for them to name the leader of each country without doing any research. Then allow them a second amount of time in which they may research the countries to find the leaders.

## Game #2 Jeopardy

---

This would be played just like the TV show but using current events as the focus. You will need 5 topic areas and 5 answers under each topic area. For example, 5 topic areas might be Foreign Policy, the Middle East, U.S. Congress, Global Organizations, and Texas. 5 answers under Texas might be Greg Abbott, Wildfires, School vouchers, Ken Paxton and Bexar County.

## Game #3 Flash Speech

---

This can be an individual game or played in groups. Each student/group has a piece of paper and a pen/pencil. Call out an extemp topic question and given them 2 minutes to come up with 3 points to make for that topic. Each student must justify their 3 points. The best points earns that student/group a prize.

## Game #4      If I were the Leader....

---

This activity can take as much time as you want or as little as 15 minutes.

Give each student a crown with the name of a country written on it. In the time allotted, they must find out who the leader of that country is (President, Prime Minister, etc.). Further research should focus on the country's government, their financial status, who their allies are, who their enemies are, the capital of the country and what struggles are they facing (if any).

After you have learned some things about the country then make a decision on how that country could become more powerful. This is entirely up to you. Remember...you are the leader.

At the end of the allotted time, each student present their country to the class. They should wear their crown when presenting their country.

To make this more challenging, let the students work with their allies in forming a partnership and determine who their enemies are. Many adaptations could be made to this assignment.

## Game #5                    Hesitation, Repetition, Deviation

Using 8 chairs, place four chairs in a line facing the other four chairs. Have students divide into groups of four. Have two groups take a seat in the chairs. Group 1 on the left and Group 2 on the right. The teacher needs a bowl filled with one word topics. These can be current event topics but individual words makes this game easier.

Starting with the group on the teacher's left side, the teacher will announce the one word topic and start the stopwatch for a one minute countdown. The first student on the left side will begin talking about that word. While talking they may not repeat any 4 letter or longer word (except for the topic word), they may not deviate from the topic and they cannot stop to think about what to say or hesitate. As that student talks, the group on the right hand side listens carefully to the speaker. If they hear any speaker use hesitation, repetition or deviation, then they must call it. The stopwatch stops while they explain what they heard. If the teacher decides they are right, then the topic switches over to that side. This repeats until one minute passes. Go back and forth between teams on each topic and when a person has spoken on that topic, they cannot speak on it again. So rotate sides and speakers.

The team who is speaking at the end of the one minute, wins. They remain in their seats and a new team comes up to face them. The game starts up again with a different word.

Words that I found successful were winter, family, dating, cars, pets, breakfast, homework, etc. You can even allow the students to submit the words to use once they have learned how to play the game and what type of words to use.

## Game #6                    Online Scavenger Hunt

Give each student a copy of the attached Current Event Online Scavenger Hunt. Give them 30 minutes to complete the questions by using their computer. The Scavenger Hunt is attached. After this is completed, have a discussion about each of the questions. Students will have different answers on some of the questions so the discussions will increase their knowledge of current events. This should be updated each time you use it to keep up with the news.

## Current Event Online Scavenger Hunt

1. List three American cities that were in the national news in the last two weeks.
2. List three countries that were in the news in the last week.
3. Identify a natural disaster that was in the news in the past year.
4. What was the date and location of the most recent transportation crisis?
5. Who won an election in the world in the past three months? Where?
6. List the names of three leaders of Middle East countries. And their country.
7. What is one U.S. dollar worth in Euros?
8. List three of the latest headlines from Time.com.
9. Who is the President of Mexico?
10. Who is Japan's Minister of Defense?
11. What is America's unemployment rate?
12. What is the first listed article about politics?
13. What are two of the top news stories today?

