



Gambling

Definitions & Discussion Questions

Gambling: Playing games of chance or taking risky action for money or something of value; betting; wagering.

Low-Risk Gambling: Games such as lotteries, scratch cards, and card games played with friends or family; many problem gamblers begin with low-risk games.

High-Risk Gambling: Games such as slot machines, casino-type card games, and sports betting. These are the most common types of gambling for problem gamblers.

Estimation Error: Overestimating one's skill level and the chance for positive results; underestimation of harmful outcomes; exaggerated optimism or expectation of positive or immediate results.

Due to brain maturation, youth may engage in magical thinking and inaccurately predict that gambling will have immediate gains while simultaneously exaggerating the low probability of negative outcomes.



Critical Thinking Section

Students:

- What are your beliefs and values about gambling? Is it a right of passage for young people in our country? Why or why not?
- Do you know someone who gambles? Is their gambling low or high-risk? Are they a problem gambler? How do they act? How does it affect you?
- Does your family have a rule about gambling? Do you agree with it? Why or why not?
- Have you ever gambled? What type of gambling have you done? Have you ever tried to go back and win back money you lost?
- Have you ever been concerned about your, a family member's, or a friend's gambling?

Problem Gambling:

Today, most problem gamblers are more likely to gamble on the internet. Technological developments have given rise to new forms of gambling enticements that pull youth in via the internet, smartphones, and interactive TVs.

Without age verification or parental supervision, the excitement and lure of financial gain may tempt youth to place online bets without accurately perceiving the risks.



Staff & Family:

- Have you considered talking to youth about gambling? Why or why not?
- What are your rules about underage gambling?
- Do you know someone who has a gambling problem? How does it affect you or their loved ones?
- What are the warning signs of problem gambling?
- Do youth have good risk perception? How does youth brain development factor into their ability to accurately predict risk?
- What would you do if a child or student admitted they had gambled or have a problem gambling?