

Example 1 (Secondary and/or University Level) "Digital Pirates"

Many people have been downloading video games for free off of the Internet instead of paying for them from stores for a number of years. Many believe this is not a crime and wealthy companies that create the video games are rich enough to take a loss here and there. Let's listen in on a conversation between two teenagers on this issue:

Vanessa: I just downloaded the latest version of "The Simtastics". I can even pick out what gym shoes they wear!

Yukiko: How much did you pay for it?

Vanessa: Pay? Are you kidding? I downloaded it for free off the Internet. Why pay money when you can get it for free?

Yukiko: Don't you think that the programmers who wrote the program should get paid for their work?

Vanessa: Yeah, right. The company that makes it is worth 100 billion dollars. They won't miss 39 dollars from me....

Yukiko: Maybe not, but what if 1 million other people do the same thing? Now we're talking about 39 million dollars!

Vanessa: Anyway, programmers don't get some of the sales money for every video game that the company sells. They get a yearly salary. So, I'm only taking money away from greedy software companies!

Yukiko: I know software companies are rich, but don't they deserve the money they make, too? After all, software companies have to pay the salaries of all their computer programmers. Not every video game sells as well as "The Simtastics", you know. Software companies sometimes lose a lot of money when they create and market a video game. Remember that stupid video game last year called "More Homework, Please!" that nobody bought?

Vanessa: Yeah I remember, but who cares about a billion-dollar company losing a few dollars here and there because some of us want to download some programs for free. Don't they realize that we aren't all rich like they are? We can't all afford to pay \$39 for a video game!

Yukiko: You say they are already rich from selling programs. What about

new games? What if every video game player was like you and downloaded their programs for free instead of paying for it? Why would they want to hire program designers to make new games for us anymore?

Vanessa: Not everybody downloads programs, you know. Some players will still buy their programs. Some download a few games just to see if they really like them before buying them.

Yukiko: Isn't your mom a web designer, Vanessa? What if people ripped off your mom's web designs and gave them away for free? Don't you want your mom to get paid so she can support your family? What if the loss in sales of her designs caused her company to collapse? Do you think your family can make it without your Mom's salary?

Vanessa: Well ...

Think about what both Yukiko and Vanessa said. Do you agree with Yukiko or Vanessa? Is there a perspective on this issue that was not presented by either person? Is there a compromise solution to this controversy that would please both sides?

Source:

Zainuddin, H. & Moore, R. (2003). Enhancing Critical Thinking with Structured Controversial Dialogues. *Internet TESL Journal*, (9)6, Retrieved on March 1, 2005, at: <http://iteslj.org/Techniques/Zainuddin-Controversial.html>

Create a SCD for current events in France

You will create an SCD for a role play which discusses three distinct perspectives on the civil unrest in France recently on the following three perspectives:: 1) the rioters, 2) the French government and 3) a far-right wing political party

Take into consideration, among other things you generate, the following:

- Grievances of the North African and African immigrant communities in terms of racism, discrimination, lack of job opportunities, life in the suburbs, etc
- Concerns of the government in maintaining law and order, integrating immigrants into French society on government terms, financial constraints on new initiatives, etc.
- Beliefs of the right-wing political parties on the issue of immigration, role of immigrants in French society, notions of what it means to French, etc.