

October Critical Thinking This or That Game



Designed to spark deeper conversations, critical thinking, and meaningful discussions in the classroom

How to Use:

- Present each question and allow thinking time before students choose
- Encourage students to explain their reasoning
- Perfect for Socratic seminars, debate practice, or philosophical discussions
- Use as journal prompts or discussion starters
- Great for developing argumentation and critical thinking skills

The Questions:

1. Learning about real historical October events 📖 or Celebrating fictional Halloween traditions 🎃?
2. Focusing on harvest gratitude 🍂 or Addressing food insecurity issues 🍷?
3. Traditional autumn celebrations 🍁 or Creating new, inclusive seasonal traditions 🌈?
4. Teaching children about death through Halloween 🕸 or Keeping death discussions separate from fun activities 🎉?
5. Spending money on decorations 🎊 or Making decorations from recycled materials ♻?
6. Preserving old Halloween customs 📖 or Evolving traditions to be more inclusive 🌈?
7. Individual trick or treating 🏠 or Community organized safe Halloween events 🏡?
8. Scary content that builds courage 🦇 or Gentle activities that ensure everyone feels safe 😊?
9. Learning about autumn science 🍂 or Focusing on autumn's emotional/artistic impact 🎨?
10. Emphasizing the fun of Halloween 🎉 or Discussing the commercial pressures of the holiday 🛒?
11. Celebrating harvest abundance 🍂 or Reflecting on global hunger and inequality 🌍?
12. Teaching about indigenous harvest traditions 🏠 or Focusing on European-derived autumn customs 🍂?
13. Using Halloween to explore fears constructively 🦇 or Avoiding potentially triggering scary content 🚫?
14. Homemade costumes that show creativity 🧵 or Store-bought costumes that ensure equal participation 🛒?
15. Trick-or-treating in neighborhoods 🏠 or Organized events that are accessible to all families 🏡?
16. Teaching about real bats and spiders 🦇 or Perpetuating spooky myths about these animals 🕸?
17. October as a time for reflection and change 🍂 or October as pure celebration and fun 🎉?
18. Discussing the origins of Halloween traditions 📖 or Just enjoying them without historical context 🎉?
19. Emphasizing autumn's natural beauty 🍂 or Acknowledging autumn as a time of decay and endings 🍂?
20. Supporting local pumpkin farms 🍂 or Questioning the environmental impact of decorative pumpkins 🎃?
21. Using October to teach about different cultures' autumn festivals 🌍 or Focusing deeply on familiar local traditions 🏠?
22. Candy as an occasional treat 🍬 or Questioning sugar consumption and health impacts 🍬?
23. Halloween as community building 🏡 or Halloween as potentially exclusionary to some families 🏠?
24. Learning about autumn weather science 🌤 or Discussing climate change impacts on seasons 🌤?
25. Appreciating autumn's natural cycle 🍂 or Questioning human interference with natural processes 🍂?
26. October literature and poetry 📖 or Critical media literacy about October marketing 📺?
27. Traditional "scary" vs. "cute" Halloween divide 🎃 or Questioning why we categorize things this way 🎃?
28. Autumn as preparation for winter 🍂 or Autumn as its own distinct season worth celebrating 🍂?
29. Individual expression through costumes 🧵 or Concern about costume appropriation and stereotypes 🧵?
30. Pumpkins as decoration 🎃 or Pumpkins as food waste when they're not eaten afterward 🍂?
31. October ending with Halloween celebration 🎉 or October ending with reflection on what we've learned 📖?

Discussion Extensions:

- **Debate Format:** Have students choose sides and present arguments
- **Perspective Taking:** Ask students to argue for the opposite of their initial choice
- **Research Projects:** Have students investigate the background of contentious topics
- **Journaling:** Use questions as daily reflection prompts
- **Community Connections:** Invite community members to share different perspectives
- **Cross-Curricular Links:** Connect to social studies, science, literature, or ethics lessons

Facilitation Tips:

- Create a respectful discussion environment
- Encourage students to support opinions with evidence
- Help students see multiple valid perspectives
- Use questions to explore bias and assumptions
- Connect to current events when appropriate

Critical thinking through seasonal reflection! 🍂

Happy October! 🍂