**Talk Show Role Play on the Good Life**

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**Purpose**: Students reflect on the good life from the perspective of various types of people. Students reflect on and evaluate very different ways of life.

* Have students work in groups; each group gets a piece of paper with descriptions of a type of person (e.g. a political activist; a deeply religious person; a science nerd; a workaholic CEO; a single parent who works two minimum-wage jobs; a social media addict; etc.).[[1]](#footnote-1) Give them a few minutes to make a list of things that are likely to be very important to this person’s life. Also give them a list of questions to answer for this person, to structure their discussion. (E.g. “If you suddenly got an extra $1,000, what would you do with it?” “What is the one thing you most care about in life?” “What makes you happy?” “What would your perfect day look like?” “What’s your biggest fear?” “What are you most hoping to achieve in life?”)
* Next, each group sends a representative to the front of the room for the role play. You will also need someone to play the talk show host; this could either be the instructor or a student. The talk show host then leads a discussion between these different people about the meaning of life. The host will ask the questions from the list and each of the group representatives will answer. The talk show host also asks them whether they have any advice for the other talk show guests. [Note: to help the audience and the talk show host keep track of who is who, make name tents for each of the guests, specifying their role.]
* Later, have a whole-class discussion about the activity. Ask e.g. whether students identified with any of the characters from the talk show. Ask whether each of these ways of life is equally admirable or equally worthwhile.
1. I owe this idea to Jane Drexler and others at the NEH Institute “Reviving Philosophy as a Way of Life.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)