

This is a play for the players.
You'll need internet access, a page for notes, and another person.

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This play is a part of Starters by JETco.
Bear in mind that it doesn't tell you what to do or when or how to do it.
You'll have to decide that for yourself.

To find more Starters, visit jet-co.org/starters.

A
This is a play for the players.

B
Don't hate the player, hate the game.

A
My thoughts exactly.

B
I don't know if I've actually ever been able to use that phrase.

A
I don't really have a good example of that phrase being put into action.

B
Sports.

A
But I don't hate basketball. I hate a specific team in basketball. Or a specific guy. Or a specific coach. Very frequently I do hate the player as opposed to the game.

B
Do you know anyone who plays basketball?

A
Do you know anyone who plays basketball?

B
You're misunderstanding the expression. It's not actually for us. It's for the people who are inside of the game, the people who are already playing the game. It says that you shouldn't get mad at the other people playing the game with you. Instead, you should get mad about the fact that you have to play the game in the first place for other people's entertainment.

A
I think that's closer but not quite it.

B
Well, let's play a game then. Put our definition to the test.

A
Alright. What game do you want to play?

B
How about trivia?

A
Just any trivia?

B
Sure. I'm sure we can find something online. A Zoom trivia. Something like that.

A
Alright, well, this is a little two birds, one stone, but go with me. Do you know who's running for State Supreme Court in your local election?

B
No. Do you know?

A
No.

B
Is that an elected position?

A
In some places, yeah

B
Is this the first trivia question?

A
No. But I hate that feeling of getting to the voting booth or opening up the mail-in ballot and starting at the top and feeling really good about knowing the names and the policies of a few of those people. And then I go down this list and more and more there are these names that I don't recognize with little D's and R's next to their name and it feels like that's the only thing that I'm going off of. Which is probably fine in the long run, but it just feels a little gross. You know? Who are you? What do you care about? Do you believe that climate change is real? What color is your hair?

B
Do you vote based on hair color?

A
No, I vote based on the little letters, but it feels too low effort and I like to have a picture of someone in my mind. It feels like I know them a little bit.

B
Alright, so this all feels very one bird, one stone, no trivia.

A
For trivia, I'm thinking we might write our own questions.

B
Okay.

A
Based on our own research.

B
Okay.

A
Into candidates in the 2020 general election.

B
Oh. Okay. What would that look like?

A
I don't know, like any other trivia question.

B
So I might write a question like, "How much of the police does Joe Biden want to defund?" Is it A, none of the police; B, some of the police; C, all of the police; or, D, Joe Biden has not publicly expressed his relative interest or disinterest in defunding the police?

A
Yeah that would work.

B
But local.

A
Yeah. Have you researched candidates before?

B
No.

A
I did it once, but I had the ballot in front of me and I was filling it out as I researched so it was pretty straightforward. I assume we just Google it.

B
So let's Google it.

A
Great.

B
Find anything?

A
This is surprisingly more difficult than I thought.

B
What did you search?

A
“Candidates in 2020 election.” Which was too broad. But then I tried my state and my county or district or whatever and that also did not work. And then I was on some kind of local website, and I clicked on “Running for Office,” but that label was clearly for people who were interested in running for office and not for those trying to figure out who is running for office.

B
We can do this. Let’s just be smart about it. What are the potential offices that people could be running for?

A
President is one of them.

B
Great, Vice President, too. And you said Supreme Court in some places.

A
Yes. Attorney General.

B
Auditor General.

A
What does that person do?

B
No idea.

A
Treasurer. State Assembly.

B
House of Representatives and the State House of Representatives.

A
All of the congresses.

B
Exactly.

A
That feels like most things.

B
Are there more local offices?

A
Maybe.

B
So we're just gonna go around and research position by position.

A
And then write it down and then quiz each other.

B
Well this sounds like a fun game.

A
Is that sarcasm?

B
Does it matter if it was sarcasm if I still do it?

A
I guess not. Okay, so you take Democrats, I'll take Republicans.

B
Go team.

A
Ready? Break.