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| **Class/Subject: Philosophy** | **Lesson 41: “Pascal’s Wager”** |
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| **Objective(s): SWBAT evaluate Pascal’s Wager through logical, ethical, and metaphysical lenses. SWBAT brainstorm to find flaws in Pascal’s logic.** | **Unit- “LOGIC”** |
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| **Philosophical Quotes of the Day:**  **“**[**Belief is a wise wager. Granted that faith cannot be proved, what harm will come to you if you gamble on its truth and it proves false? If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation, that He exists.**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/b/blaisepasc159845.html)**”**  **-**[**Blaise Pascal**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/b/blaisepasc159845.html) | **Philosophical Video of the Day:**  ***“Why Pascal’s Wager isn’t Valid” by: Larry Rhodes***  [***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMk2kHZUrAc***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMk2kHZUrAc) |
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| **Key Points of the Day:**   * **Pascal's argument is a simple one: reason and intellect cannot decide the question of whether God exists or not; therefore, it makes sense to choose the option that would benefit us most should we be right. Accordingly, the options would be as follows:**   **1. You may live a religious and moral life and be rewarded by eternal happiness.**  **2. You may live a pleasure-seeking life and be denied eternal happiness.** | **3. You may live a holy life but there is actually no God or eternal life.**  **4. You may live a pleasure-seeking life but it makes no difference because there is no God.**  **For Pascal, the first of these options is the most important one because it represents the maximum gain and loss. Even if it should turn out that there is no God, the sheer risk of deciding against such a possibility warrants that we should take that option.** |
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| Journal Entry:  Is religious belief logical or illogical? Explain your rationale based on Pascal’s Wager and the class discussion. | **Featured philosopher and supplemental reading: “Does God Exist?” by: J. P. Moreland**    *Mathematician Blaise Pascal was born on June 19, 1623, in Clermont-Ferrand, France. In 1642, he invented the Pascaline, an early calculator. Also in the 1640s, he validated Torricelli's theory concerning the cause of barometrical variations. In the 1650s, Pascal laid the foundation of probability theory and published the theological works Pénsees and Provinciales. Pascal died in Paris on August 19, 1662.* |