

# Confessions of a So-called Middle Child



## Classroom Debate

### “Which sibling has it worst?”

Assign four teams to debate the merits of being the oldest, middle, youngest, or only child. Share the questions with the class and give them some time to construct their arguments. Then have each team present its case to the class. After the presentations, give the teams a few minutes to create and present rebuttal arguments to prove their stances. Use the rubric below to grade each team. The team with the most points is the winner!

#### SCENARIOS:

1. During a family dinner, who would have more responsibilities? Explain.
2. When getting in trouble, which child is punished more by his or her parents? Why?
3. Who gets to have more fun at school? Why?
4. Who should get the biggest allowance in the family? Why?
5. When parents hear a big fight breaking out, who gets blamed first? Why?

**TEAM** (oldest, middle, youngest, or only): \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM MEMBERS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria	Rating: 1-10	Comments
Opening statements were well organized.		
All team members participated equally.		
Students spoke loudly enough to be heard.		
Rebuttal was specific to arguments.		
Answers to questions were well thought out.		
<b>BONUS:</b> Respect for the opposing team was shown throughout the debate. (No name-calling, interruptions, etc.)		

**POINTS EARNED:** \_\_\_\_\_