

1096-VH-2679 **Paul R. Coe*** (coepaul@dom.edu), Department of Mathematics, Dominican Univeristy, 7900 W. Division St., River Forest, IL 60305. *Should anyone ever “Pass” on Family Feud?* Preliminary report.

On the TV show Family Feud, two families of four contestants compete to name the most common responses to personal questions. In each round, one person from each family tries to guess the most common answer to a question posed to 100 people. Whichever contestant has the more frequent response is given the opportunity to 'Play' or 'Pass'. If the contestant chooses to 'Play', the members of his or her family take turns attempting to name the rest of the answers given until either all of the answers are named or three incorrect answers are named. If all of the answers are named, they win the round. Otherwise, the other family has the opportunity to steal the round by naming one more answer. If it is correct, they win the round; otherwise, the original family wins the round. If the winning contestant chooses to 'Pass', then the roles are reversed. In practice, no one ever says 'Pass'. Their team also seldom names all of the other correct answers before three incorrect ones. In my presentation, I will describe how the game show is played. I will present data on the number of answers in each round and the performance of the actual contestants. I will analyze these results in an effort to find situations where it may be more advantageous to 'Pass' than to 'Play' Family Feud. (Received September 17, 2013)