TEACHER RESOURCE · DISCUSSION GUIDE

Talking About Insurance: Classroom Discussion Guide

Open-ended questions to spark discussion, organized by topic. Use alongside any Plain Policies page.

These questions are designed to have no single "correct" answer. They're meant to surface reasoning, not test recall — use them for small-group talk, whole-class discussion, or reflective writing. None of these questions ask students to evaluate or choose a specific insurance product or company.

General Concepts

- Insurance has been described as "paying a little now so you don't lose a lot later." Do you agree that's a fair summary? What's missing from it?
- Why do you think insurance premiums are based on group risk data rather than being priced individually person by person?
- Some people say insurance is "a bet you hope to lose." What do you think they mean by that?
- Why might a state regulate insurance rates instead of leaving pricing entirely up to each company?

Auto Insurance

- Why do you think a driver's history and location can affect their auto insurance cost, according to public data?
- What is the difference between coverage that protects other people (liability) and coverage that protects your own car? Why might a state require one but not the other?
- If "full coverage" isn't an official policy type, why do you think that phrase is so widely used?

Renters Insurance

- Many renters mistakenly believe their landlord's insurance covers their belongings. Why do you think that myth is so common?
- Why might a lease require a tenant to carry renters insurance even though it's optional in most states?
- What's the difference between actual cash value and replacement cost, and why would that distinction matter after a real loss?

Life Insurance

- Why does age have such a large effect on life insurance premiums, based on what the site describes about underwriting?
- What is the practical difference between term and permanent life insurance, and what kind of life situation might make one more relevant than the other?
- Why do you think insurers ask detailed health questions during underwriting?

Claims & Consumer Awareness

- Walking through the site's claim-flow steps, which step do you think would be most stressful for someone going through it for the first time, and why?
- Why might filing a claim sometimes affect a person's future premium, even if the loss wasn't their fault?
- Why do you think it's useful to keep a personal property inventory before a loss happens, rather than after?