



THE GREAT DEBATE

The GAA is an amateur organization. What do you think that this means? Use the box below to give your own definition or explanation of what amateur means.

Because the GAA is amateur, this means...

Every GAA club is based in a local Parish and the teams are made up of local people who play because they enjoy it. They all have their own jobs and are not paid for playing or training.

How do you think this might change if the GAA became professional?

- Would there be any benefits?
- What would the disadvantages be?
- What is your opinion?

A good idea might be to divide your class into two groups; one for amateur status and one for professional status. Then ask your teacher to allow you to use two sections of display board in your classroom or corridor to present your arguments. You could then use the boards to organise and display the *evidence, information and opinions* to support your argument. **(Hint: Check the differences between evidence, information and opinion and how you can use them.)**

Here are a few ideas you might think about for your display.

→ **Do a comparison between a GAA club and a football / rugby club.**

You could look at: grounds • facilities • impact on the community

→ **Compare a GAA player with a footballer.**

You could look at: wages • life styles

→ **Collect both positive and negative stories from the newspapers**

→ **Write to / interview local GAA club members for their opinions.**

When you have completed your displays and everyone has had a chance to read each other's display and ask questions, you could have a class vote to decide what your class opinion is on the issue of Professionalism for the G.A.A. You could also write a class letter to the G.A.A. to tell them what you have done and what you think.