

Utopia or Dystopia? You decide!

A role playing game for any number of players

Equipment needed:

- one small rubber ball
- slips of paper
- pen or pencil

Setting up the game:

This game can be played by any number of players and it's also suitable for solitary play. To get started, each player chooses a persona type.

- human being of any age
- animal
- machine (including robot, computer, or artificial intelligence)

Beginning the game:

Each person bounces the ball and counts the number of bounces. The player with the largest number goes first.

Tip: As you play, consider how your persona would decide what option to consider and what criteria he/she/it would use when making a choice.

Playing the game:

1. The player bounces the ball and counts the number of bounces.
2. On a fresh slip of paper, write down the number of bounces and describe something that has an attribute of that number.

For example, if the number of bounces is six, the creature or object could be an insect (or a really strange human). Be as creative as you like in describing your creation.

3. Each of the players would then discuss the object that you've chosen and add any additional attributes that they wish.
4. After the discussion has wound down, a vote is taken to determine if the object belongs in a utopia or dystopia. This can get complicated!
5. In the case of a tie, the vote of the player owning the object determines whether the object belongs in a utopia or dystopia.
6. On the slip of paper, write a "U" if the object belongs in a utopia or a "D" if the object belongs in a dystopia.

Play passes to the player on the right.

Ending the game:

The game ends when *any one* of these conditions are met:

- the players are tired of the game
- it's time to break for dinner
- there's no more paper in the house
- the sun goes nova*

The slips of paper are organized into two piles and counted. The larger of the two piles will determine whether or not the newly created environment is a utopia or a dystopia.

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In the case of the sun going nova, the game is over and *nobody* wins.