CREATIVE DEBATING

Review the differences between men and women listed below. Then work in groups to come up with a compromise for a couple who have differing views.

Five Behavioral Differences by Gary Smalley

1. Men love to share facts, women love to express feelings.
2. Men connect by doing things, women connect by talking.
3. Men tend to compete, women tend to cooperate.
4. Men tend to be controlling, women tend to remain agreeable.
5. Men tend to be independent, women tend to be interdependent.

Part One
Get into a group of four, with two boys and two girls. Choose a scenario below and team up by gender within your group (girls work together, boys work together). Both teams in the group will work on the same scenario.

Scenario #1 One spouse wants to finance a boat costing $32,000. The other spouse wants to pay cash. They have $18,000 saved outside their emergency fund. How can they compromise?

Scenario #2 One spouse thinks that their two children need new shoes. The other spouse thinks that the family vehicle needs an oil change. Can both be done with only $30 in the budget for blow money? How can this issue be resolved in the future?

Scenario #3 One spouse wants to go to the beach for the family vacation. The other spouse wants to visit relatives in the mountains. How can they enjoy a family vacation and still stay within a $1,000 budget?

Part Two
Each team in the group will write a brief paper outlining their solution to the scenario (Remember, both teams are writing about the same scenario). Explain your answer with as much detail as possible. Use at least five of the terms below in your paper.

- Accountability
- Allowance
- Checking Account
- Commission
- Debt
- Envelope System
- Fiscal
- Free Spirit
- Negotiate
- Nerd
- Security
- Self-Esteem
- Value System
- Work Ethic
Part Three
Work again as a group of four and read each paper out loud in the group. Discuss the differences between solutions. How did the boys’ solution differ from the girls’ solution? Which of Gary Smalley’s behavioral differences do you notice?