Rule Changes in the NFL
Field Trip/Video Conference Program

Fieldtrip / Video Conference Experience Outline:
10 minutes – Welcome
20 minutes – Discussion of the History of the NFL scoring system
10 minutes – Newspaper clippings of scores from 1892, 1897, 1904, 1909, 1912
10 minutes – Questions and Answers

Instructions:
Please use the following lesson to help prepare your students for a more meaningful and interactive educational experience.
**Subject:** Mathematics & Language Arts  
**Lesson Title:** Rule Changes in the NFL

**Goals/ Objectives:**
- Students will:
  - Review addition facts
  - Practice problem solving skills
  - Read and interpret a chart
  - Demonstrate knowledge of language structure and conventions

**Common Core Standards:**
- **Mathematics:** Operations and Algebraic Thinking; Number Operations and Algebra
- **Language Arts:** Integration of Knowledge and Ideas; Production and Distribution of Writing; RI- Key Ideas and Details

**Methods/ Procedures:**

**Prior to the Program**
- Students will read *The NFL Scoring System chart* and use problem solving to determine the potential different outcomes of Super Bowl V.
- Students will use *The NFL Scoring System Chart* and use problem solving skills to determine the various combinations of how teams could arrive at different point totals.
- Students will compile a list of questions to be asked during the program.
- Students will be encouraged to research other rule changes that have been a part of the NFL’s history.

**During the Program**
- Students will learn about the rich history of professional football.
- Students will learn historical reason why the Pro Football Hall of Fame is located in Canton, Ohio.
- Students will also learn about why different rules changes occurred and how it affected the growth of professional football.

**After the Program**
- Students will complete writing assignments following the lesson.
- Students can create algebraic equations to help determine scores of games played in various years.
Materials:
• The NFL Scoring System Chart
• Super Bowl V Worksheet
• Scoring Combinations Worksheet
• ProFootballHOF.com

Assessment:
• Written Assignments
The values of scoring have undergone several changes since the birth of professional football in 1892. So much so that if the scoring values that were in place close to 110 years ago were still the standard, it would have a dramatic effect on the outcome of many of today's games.

In fact, had an older scoring system been in place in the early '70s, the outcome of Super Bowl V would have been completely different. Baltimore Colts' first-year kicker Jim O'Brien booted a 32-yard field goal in the waning seconds of that title matchup against the Dallas Cowboys. His kick broke a tie game and gave the Colts a 16-13 victory for their first Super Bowl championship. Use the chart to determine how the outcome of the game would have been different.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1892</th>
<th>1897</th>
<th>1904</th>
<th>1909</th>
<th>1912</th>
<th>1994</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Goal</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touchdown</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point after Touchdown</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two-point Conversion</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1st Qtr. - Clark 14 yard field goal (Dallas)
2nd Qtr. - Clark 30 yard field goal (Dallas)
Unitas 75 yard touchdown pass to Mackey (Baltimore)
Extra point was blocked
Morton 7 yard touchdown pass to Thomas (Dallas)
Extra point was made
3rd Qtr. - Neither team scored
4th Qtr. - Nowatzke with 2 yard touchdown run (Baltimore)
Extra point was made
O'Brien 32 yard field goal (Baltimore)

Final:
Baltimore 16
Dallas 13
Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain.

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

If no, please explain

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

What would the score be if the game had been played in 1892?

_______________________________________________________________________

1904?

_______________________________________________________________________

1909?

_______________________________________________________________________

1912?
Scoring Combinations

In 2016, the Minnesota Vikings played the Seattle Seahawks in the NFC Playoffs, a game that the Seattle Seahawks won. The final score of the game was:

Vikings - 9  
Seahawks - 10

Vikings Field Goals = 3 for 9 points  
Vikings Touchdowns = 0 for 0 points  
Extra Point = 0 for 0 points  
2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points  
Vikings total = 9 points

Seahawks Field Goals = 1 for 3 points  
Seahawks Touchdowns = 1 for 6 points  
Extra Point = 1 for 1 point  
2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points  
Seahawks total = 10 points

Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain.

_______________________________________________________________________  
_______________________________________________________________________  
_______________________________________________________________________

If no, please explain

_______________________________________________________________________  
_______________________________________________________________________

What would the score be if the game had been played in 1892?

_______________________________________________________________________

1904?

_______________________________________________________________________

1909?

_______________________________________________________________________

1912?
Writing Assignment:
Using the NFL Scoring System chart choose a year and write about a game that could have been played in that year. What teams would have played? Where would the game have been played? Were there any great plays? Then research the game and the scoring for the game and describe the difference if it was scored in a different era.

A Memorable Game in ______________________

(Year)

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Pro Football Hall of Fame Youth and Education
Rule Changes in the NFL
Writing Assignment:
Write about a rule you would change in the NFL and why you would change to rule. Make sure to think about some of the rules you have previously learned about and why they were changed. This will help you when you are thinking about the current rule you want to change.

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**Answer Key**

Super Bowl V (1971):

**Baltimore - 16**
**Dallas - 13**

Baltimore Field Goals = 1 for 3 points  
Baltimore Touchdowns = 2 for 12 points  
Extra Point = 1 for 1 point  
2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points  
Baltimore total = 16 points

Dallas Field Goals = 2 for 6 points  
Dallas Touchdowns = 1 for 6 points  
Extra Point = 1 for 1 point  
2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points  
Dallas total = 13 points

Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain.  
*Student responses will vary.*

If no, please explain.  
*Student responses will vary.*

What would the score be if the game had been played in:

1892? **Baltimore 15 - Dallas 16**

1904? **Baltimore 15 – Dallas 14**

1909? **Baltimore 14 – Dallas 12**

1912? **Baltimore 16 – Dallas 13**
Answer Key

In 2016, the Minnesota Vikings played the Seattle Seahawks in the NFC Playoffs, a game that the Seattle Seahawks won. The final score of the game was:

Vikings - 9
Seahawks - 10

Vikings Field Goals = 3 for 9 points
Vikings Touchdowns = 0 for 0 points
Extra Point = 0 for 0 points
2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points
Vikings total = 9 points

Seahawks Field Goals = 1 for 3 points
Seahawks Touchdowns = 1 for 6 points
Extra Point = 1 for 1 point
2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points
Seahawks total = 10 points

Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain
Student responses will vary.

If no, please explain
Student responses will vary.

What would the score be if the game had been played in:

1892? Vikings 15 - Seahawks 11
1904? Vikings 12 – Seahawks 9
1909? Vikings 9 – Seahawks 8
1912? Vikings 9 – Seahawks 10