Football

A variation in which teams solve math problems to gain yards.

Will someone win? Or will the rivals be stuck at a stand still?

For the teacher:

- Split the class into an even number of groups; pair groups together as rivals

- Draw a simple football field on the board for each pair of teams:

TD	10	20	30	40	50	40	30	20	10	TD

- Present questions: write on the board, project via document camera, etc.

- Any team that gets the problem correct gains 10 yards (so if both teams get it right, they cancel each other out)

- Option: Challenge problems could be worth more than 10 yards; multi-step problems could be worth 10 yards per part

For the students:

- You will be put on a team, and your team will be given a rival

- Your teams will get a football field on the board: keep track of the ball

- When a problem is presented, solve it with your team and answer when asked

- If you get it correct, your team gains 10 yards! But if your rival gets it correct, they also gain 10 yards…that means you might cancel each other out.

- Some problems may be worth more than 10 yards

Math Problems:

- Use practice problems from a textbook or homework packet

- Use problems from an old version of a test or quiz

- Find problems online, such as in Dan Meyer's Algebra curriculum on his blog (algebra.mrmeyer.com)

Pros and Cons:

- Pros:
  - Simple rules, set up is easy
  - Both teams in a rivalry can score on each turn, and so everyone can gain points

- Cons:
  - Some students may be unmotivated by the idea that the teams could continually cancel each other out and thus no one advances

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