Formulas Poker



Purpose:

This activity will help students understand the concepts of balancing charge and naming chemical compounds.

Materials:

Several decks of "formula" cards. I made these out of index cards. You should have enough for each group to have its own deck.

Safety:

Not an issue.

Procedure:

Divide the class into groups of three or four. Give each student a deck of cards and ask each group to establish a scorekeeper.

Each Deck should contain at least one of the following cards:

Ba +2 Na +1 Ca +2 Li +1 Pb +2 Zn +2	Be +2 Mg +2 Ag +1 K +1 V +3 Ni +3	Cu +2 Cu +3 Fe +2 H +1 Fe +3	Sr+2 Sc +3 Al +3 Hg +2 Sn +1 Rb +1
NO3 -1	HCO3 -1	CrO4 -1	S -2
NO2 -1	PO4 -3	Cl -1	O -2
SO4 -2	HPO4 -2	AsO4 -2	F-1
SO3 -2	NH4 +1	C2H3O2 -1	N -3
HSO4 -2	OH -1	H2PO4 -1	Br -1
CO3 -2	ClO4 -1	I -1	P -3

One Blank or Free Card 15 of each subscript: 1, 2, 3

This game is played as a 5-card draw.

Procedure

This game is played as a 5 card draw. The dealer will pass out 5 cards to each player from the shuffled deck.

Each player may turn in as many as 3 cards but only ONCE. The players will try to make a chemical formula that uses as many of their cards as possible. If they cannot play, they must simply PASS. It is possible to make 2 chemical formulas in one play.

The score is totaled by the number of cards that the player is able to use to make the chemical formula.