“Would You Rather” Questions

Read each question to students in a game of “Would You Rather.” For example, ask: *Would you rather A, carry a bucket filled with air, or B, carry a bucket filled with water?*

A	B	Explanations
carry a bucket filled with air	carry a bucket filled with water	Water and air both have mass. Water is denser than air, so a bucket filled with water will have more mass (and feel heavier) than the same bucket filled with air.
have someone wearing cleats step on your foot	have someone wearing tennis shoes step on your foot	A person would exert the same downward force regardless of whether he or she was wearing cleats or tennis shoes. However, if the person were wearing cleats, the force would be applied over a much smaller area, so the pressure would be greater (and it would be more painful).
have an elephant stand on your foot directly	have an elephant balance on a thumbtack on top of your foot	The downward force exerted by the elephant would be applied over a much smaller area if it were balancing on a thumbtack, so the pressure would be greater.
breathe through a 6-foot (2 meter) tube to the surface in 5 feet (1.5 meters) of water in the ocean	breathe at the beach near the ocean	The pressure on your lungs would be much greater under water than standing on the beach because the force the water exerts on your lungs is greater than the force the air exerts. Because the pressure of the water pressing in on your lungs is so much greater than the pressure of the air pressing out, you would find it difficult to take a breath under 5 feet of water.