

Family Feud

Bringing The
Television Show
to your home

Reviewed by Robb James



I am one of the many, many people who remember watching the game show *Family Feud* when I was a small child. Back then, I would sit on my grandmother's couch and watch duelling families battle it out over gruelling and challenging questions. Being a small child, I would often wonder what it would be like to one day be a contestant on the show. Of course, with the qualifications being so strict and so many families wanting a shot at it, that dream would be impossible, right?

Well, not anymore. A new game for the 3DO game system has now adapted the classic game show for your home: the *Family Feud*. This game show simulation is more authentic than any other versions of the game I've seen on other systems. It includes exceptional graphics, a few families to choose from, and even a host voice-over. With all these features, who needs the show?

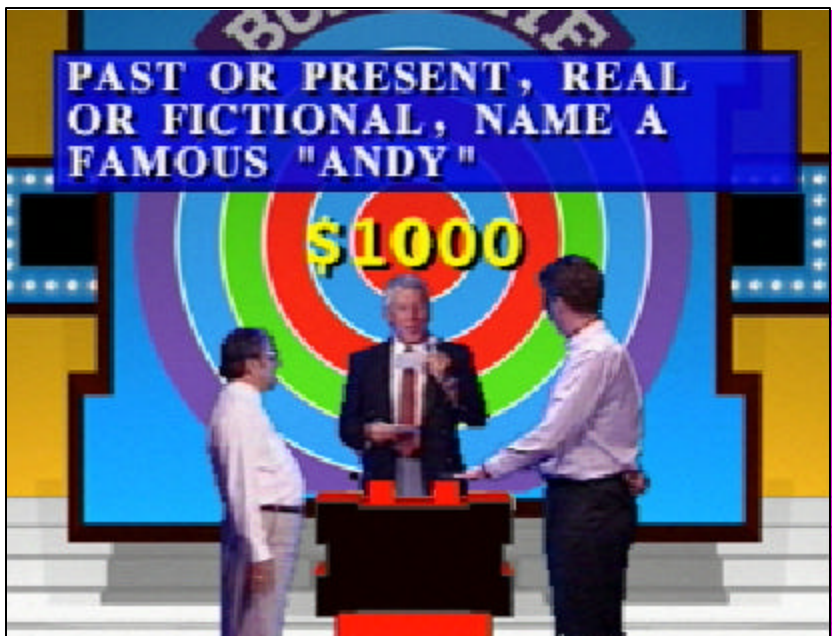
The first facet of this game that impressed me was the family options. Up to ten players can participate in one game, but as little as one can also take part. One 3DO system can play another, two families can play each other, or one player or group of players can challenge the computer. The difficulty levels are novice, easy, average, good, and amazing. The

main variation among these levels is the computer's speed as far as pressing the button to answer a question before you do. The questions are also more challenging.

You also do not have to play by one hard and fast set of rules. By choosing the Customize Rules option, a player can alter the amount of time given to answer a question, and even the scoring system. It is possible to reduce question-response time to as little as ten seconds or expand it to as

much as 99 seconds. This is particularly helpful if the game is being played with younger children.

As far as the families are concerned, there are four of them to choose from. They are the families of Sanchez, Williams, Murray, and Khera. However, suppose you wanted to see your own family's name on the screen? Well, that's another interesting feature about this game. With the Customize Family option, a player can actually choose the



Just Like TV: Sometimes the best strategy is to let the other guy go first. When playing against the 3DO system, this is almost mandatory.

Perhaps the best thing about it is that you can finally be a contestant on the classic game show.

characters of one family, individually name them in accordance to their own family, and even include personal information, such as a character's occupation or hobbies. Finally, the player can give the family their own last name, and then it's off to play the game with your very own family.

The actual game is just about as simple. It follows verbatim the rules and portions of the original television program, and begins with the Bull's-Eye Round. Here, families compete to guess the top answer to a particular question, based on survey results. For example, one question demonstrated in the owner's manual, is, "Name something that has knobs on it." If your character buzzes in first (by pressing A, B, or C on the controller)



The Families: You may chose your family (above left) from a narrow field.

and selects "door" as an answer, the host will look up your answer on the survey. If it was indeed the top answer, you win the amount of money specified before the question was asked. If not, your opponent gets the opportunity to guess. If your opponent is correct, they will get the money. If they are incorrect, then you will move on to another question, and the stakes will get higher.

Once the Bull's-Eye round has

been completed, the game moves on to the toss-up question. It is at this point when one player from a team is pitted against a player from the other team and, like in the Bull's-Eye round, the first player to hit the buzzer and answer the question correctly will win their team the opportunity to play that round. However, if there are seven panels for answers on the game board and you choose the answer that it seventh, and then your opponent chooses the answer that is fifth, the choice goes to your opponent. They can then either play or pass. If you cannot, however, provide all the correct answers while you are playing, your opponent gets the opportunity to steal that round from you and win the game if they get the correct answer.

After the main rounds, each team then moves on to the Fast Money round. Here is where, if you customized your own family, some of the information comes into play. For example, you have choices when customizing a character as to what their intelligence level is, ranging from "hopeless" to "genius." You will want your cleverest team member partaking in this section of the game. Two members of each family are selected to answer five survey questions, without being told if they are correct or



Three Strikes: The 3DO version follows the same rules as the famous television show.



However, when playing against the 3DO, its family may win.

incorrect between responses.

Questions may be answered in the consecutive order they are asked, or if you are having a particularly tough time with one, you can choose to PASS and move onto it later, after all other questions have been asked and answered.

Once all family members have answered all survey questions in this round, both sets of responses are shown. If the total of the points is 200 or more, then that family will win however much money they made in the Bull's-Eye round. If it is less than 200, then five dollars is rewarded for each point.

Winning the game depends on which mode you are playing in. If you are in the Family vs. Family mode, the winning family can continue if they haven't won five times. They must, however, play a family by another name. In a Family vs. 3DO system contest, if the human family wins the Fast Money round, they can also play again if they haven't won five times. The computer will become a different family. The only stipulation is that one family cannot play more than five consecutive times.

One advantage in this game is the fact that spelling is not a crucial aspect. In order to spell out an

answer, first press the A button on your controller to bring up the alphabet on the lower portion of your screen. To move from one letter to another, simply use the arrow keys for whichever direction you wish to move in. To select a letter, press the A button when the box with the appropriate letter is highlighted with a broken line. In order to delete a letter, just press the B button and the previous letter will disappear. Press



On the final round, even the 3DO's "family" is forced to think.

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C when the final answer is completed satisfactorily. Two-word answers can either be separated by the choosing of one of the blank boxes, or they can be run together. It does not matter. If a word is misspelled due to a minor error, the computer will still be able to interpret what was meant, and no penalty will come of it.

Family Feud is a fantastic game for the 3DO system to play with the entire family. It can serve as a terrific get-together or party game, and is very simple to learn. Perhaps the best thing about it is that you can finally be a contestant on the classic game show... without embarrassing yourself of national television.

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