

Unit # 1 Title: Decisions, Decisions, Decisions!

Lesson Title: Opportunity Knocks, But It Costs, Too! **Lesson** 1 of 3

Grade Level: 6

Length of Lesson: 50 minutes

Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Standard:
 PS.3 Applying personal safety skills and coping strategies.

Grade Level Expectation (GLE):
 PS.3.A.06.a.i: Identify problem-solving, decision-making and refusal skills needed to make safe/healthy choices in social situations.

American School Counselor Association National Standard (ASCA):
 Personal/Social Development
 C: Students will understand safety and survival skills.

Materials (include activity sheets and/ or supporting resources)

List of problem-solving steps.
 List of decision-making steps.
 Two decision-making situations—one to use for class discussion and one to use for students' individual reflection.
 Chalkboard and chalk

Show Me Standards: Performance Goals (check one or more that apply)

X	Goal 1: gather, analyze and apply information and ideas 1. Develop questions and ideas to initiate and refine research. 5. Comprehend and evaluate written, visual and oral presentations and works. 8. Organize data, information and ideas into useful forms (including charts, graphs, outlines) for analysis or presentation 10. Apply acquired information, ideas and skills to different contexts as students, workers, citizens and consumers.
X	Goal 2: communicate effectively within and beyond the classroom 1. Plan and make written, oral and visual presentations for a variety of purposes and audiences 3. Exchange information, questions and ideas while recognizing the perspectives of others.
X	Goal 3: recognize and solve problems 1. Identity problems and define their scope and elements 2. Develop and apply strategies based on ways others have prevented or solved problems. 3. Develop and apply strategies based on one's own experience in preventing or solving problems 4. Evaluate the processes used in recognizing and solving problems

	5. Reason inductively from a set of specific facts and deductively from general premises. 6. Examine problems and proposed solutions from multiple perspectives 7. Evaluate the extent to which a strategy addresses the problem 8. Assess costs, benefits and other consequences of proposed solutions
X	Goal 4: make decisions and act as responsible members of society 1. Explain reasoning and identify information used to support decisions. 7. Identify and apply practices that preserve and enhance the safety and health of self and others.

This lesson supports the development of skills in the following academic content areas:

Academic Content Area(s)		Specific Skill(s)
X	Communication Arts	1. Speaking and writing standard English 4. Writing formally and informally. 5. Comprehending and evaluating the content and artistic aspects of oral and visual presentations
	Mathematics	
X	Social Studies	4. Relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions.
	Science	
	Health/Physical Education	
	Fine Arts	

Enduring Life Skill(s)

X	Perseverance		Integrity	X	Problem Solving
X	Courage	X	Compassion	X	Tolerance
X	Respect		Goal Setting		

Lesson Assessment (acceptable evidence):

Formative assessment relates to the summative assessment for unit (performance outcome for goals, objectives and GLEs). Assessment can be question answer, performance activity, etc.

Students will be provided with a situation for which a decision is to be made. Students will write a reflection piece, outlining each of the decision-making steps they have used and what decision they have decided upon, which includes possible solutions, as well as possible outcomes for each solution. Students will also record what possible costs are involved with each possible solution. The counselor will review these reflections for understanding and provide small group follow-up for those students who will benefit from extra attention.

Lesson Preparation

Essential Questions: How does one become an effective decision-maker/problem-solver in social situations?

Engagement (Hook): The facilitator asks students “How many of you have made a decision today? Students will be asked to share some of the decisions they have made today. The

instructor will acknowledge that making decisions is a part of everyday life and that many decisions are made with very little thought, such as what to eat or what to wear. Students will be asked if the decisions they make ever have a cost to them.

Procedures

Instructor Procedures:	Student Involvement:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The instructor poses the above questions with the above acknowledgement.2. The instructor indicates that there are many times when we are faced with tough problems that require more consideration and more effective decision-making. Sometimes decisions we make have a cost to them. The instructor asks students if they can think of situations where the decisions students make might have a cost to them (i.e., to visit my friends before school or look over my notes for a social studies test first hour). Ask students what the possible cost might be with each potential decision.3. The instructor explains that the purpose in making decisions is to deal with a problem. The instructor will have students review the problem-solving steps they have learned in the elementary grades (See attachment).4. The instructor explains that there is a simple process for making better decisions. The instructor writes the following decision-making steps on the board (See attachment).5. The instructor will discuss each step in detail, using the above situation: to visit my friends before school or look over my notes for a social studies test first hour. Students will be reminded students that they need to think about their interests and feelings, as well as the feelings and interests of others. Students will also be reminded that brainstorming and asking	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students respond accordingly with a show of hands if they have made any decisions that day, and then share decisions they have made that day.2. Students respond by looking at some of the more difficult decisions they make as well as potential costs for them.3. Students will review the steps of problem solving with the instructor.4. Students will listen intently.5. Students will participate in class discussion, applying the decision-making steps to the scenario provided, and addressing the reminders.

<p>others for advice is helpful to get a good list of alternatives. The instructor will also emphasize that the ability to project possible outcomes is a key to taking risks. Students will need to know their own risk-taking limits, particularly where a friendship or relationship may be endangered.</p> <p>6. The instructor will write the following scenario on the board: You are invited to a movie with your best friend. Two days later, a person with whom you have wanted to have a friendship asks you to go to a party with him or her on the same night. You need to make a decision about what you are going to do. Students will be asked to write a reflective piece on how they would utilize the decision-making steps to resolve the situation to their satisfaction, listing possible alternatives as well as the potential costs to them based on the decision they make.</p>	<p>6. Students will write a reflection piece on how they would utilize the decision-making steps to resolve the provided situation to their satisfaction, which includes possible solutions, as well as possible outcomes for each solution. Students will also record what possible costs are involved with each possible solution, listing potential costs to them based on the decision they make.</p>
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Teacher Follow-Up Activities

Students will be asked to share their narratives out loud, if they like. The instructor will observe that not all students will decide upon the same solution and that is okay.

Counselor reflection notes (completed after the lesson)



STEPS TO EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

1. Identify the problem.
2. Brainstorm possible solutions.
3. List the pros and cons of each possible solution.
4. Choose a solution and use it.
5. Evaluate the results.
6. If the results are not satisfactory, choose and use another solution.



STEPS TO EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKING

1. What is the decision to be made?
2. What are some of the possible choices?
3. What are the possible outcomes after the decision is made?
4. Made a decision?
5. Look at the results and make a new decision if possible or necessary.