### Subject

Math, Language Arts

**Concept**

Self-evaluation

#### Grade Level

6-7

National Career Guidelines

Use a process of decision-making as one component of career development (CM2)

### Type of Activity

Individual with Whole Class Discussion

Related Occupations

All Careers

Making Choices

This activity involves students solving word problems relating to economic choices.

## **Materials/Supplies**

"Making Choices" worksheet, pen/pencil

## **Activity**

* Distribute the "Making Choices" worksheet.
* Have the students work the word problems and answer the worksheet questions.
* Ask the students to share their answers with the class.
* Discuss with students the importance of budgeting and saving money for future purchases.
* Ask the students to discuss when they have had to save money for a period of time in order to purchase something they wanted.
* Ask the students if they were successful in saving enough to buy the item. If they were not, discuss why they gave up and spent the money on something less than they wanted. Discuss the level of satisfaction the student had with the substitute item.
* Discuss with the students the feeling of pride and self-discipline required to save money for a long period of time without giving in to a desire to spend the money before they reach their goals.

**Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated on their completed worksheet and participation in class discussions.

**Additional Resources**

Making Choices worksheet

**Making Choices**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** The following stories describe two strategies used by teenagers who each wanted to achieve the same short-term goal—to purchase "Run Fast, Jump High" sneakers at the end of the summer. Be prepared to write down strategies used by both Dan and Diane.

Diane, age 14, wants to purchase "Run Fast, Jump High" sneakers for $100. Her parents tell her she must look for a summer job and save her money for her sneakers. She decides to baby-sit for some neighbors. She charges $5 dollars per hour and usually has 12 hours of work per week. She's decided to save half of what she earns and spend the rest on movies, clothes, etc. Will she have enough at the end of five weeks to buy her sneakers? Why or why not?

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Dan, age 15, also wants to purchase "Run Fast, Jump High" sneakers for $100. He decides to wash cars in the neighborhood during the summer. He has five steady customers who want him to wash their cars every week for the eight weeks. He charges seven dollars per car. He's decided to spend his first two weeks salary on movies, candy, and bowling with his friends. He tries to save half of his earnings for the rest of the weeks but only saves ten dollars each week. Will he have enough to buy his sneakers? Why or why not?

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