

GATHERING INFORMATION



AGENDA

- Any Takers?
- A Job Offer
- Mystery Interview
- Conclusion
- Student Assessment

Objectives

Students will recognise that gathering information is an important part of the decision making process.

Students will recognise that asking relevant questions and actively listening to answers are effective ways to gather information.

Students will practice asking relevant questions in order to gather information and make informed decisions.

Materials Needed

- A paper grocery bag or cloth sack (Part I)
- One copy of the “Mystery Person #1” and “Mystery Person #2” activity sheets for each pair of students (Part III)

Part I Any Takers? (10 minutes)

Purpose: Students recognise that gathering information is an important part of the decision making process.

1. Students recognise that gathering information can change their decisions.

To illustrate how facts and information can change decisions, present students with the following scenario. Explain that if students wish to respond yes to a question, they should stand. If they wish to respond no, they should sit.

- If I offer you \$1,000 to go on a shopping spree, will any of you take it?
- There's one thing you should know: you will only be able to spend this money in certain stores. Will you still take it?
- If you take the money, you'll be required to spend half on yourself and half on someone else. Will you still accept it?
- Here are two more conditions: If you take the \$1,000, you'll have to spend it by the end of the week. You'll also have to spend it on something that will last longer than one year, like a smartphone, 4K TV, laptop, or video game system. How many of you will still take the money?

Take a tally of the number of students who are standing. Tell students to remain standing, and ask two or three students to briefly explain why they would keep the money despite all the conditions you stipulated. When they have finished their explanations, read the last requirement:

- There's one very important thing I forgot to mention! If you take the \$1,000, you'll have to pay me \$3,000 by the end of the week. Do you still want the money?

2. Students explain the reasons for their decisions.

Invite students who stood and then sat down to explain why they changed their minds. Elicit responses acknowledging that the deal you offered did not actually benefit them in the end because it resulted in students owing you more money than you gave them. Ask students for suggestions on what they could have done to find this out earlier (e.g., asking if there was a catch).

Explain to students that it's very important for them to make sure that they have as much information as possible before making a decision. Assure students that getting information isn't a difficult thing to do; they just need to take the time to ask the right questions.

Part II A Job Offer (20 minutes)

Purpose: Students recognise that asking relevant questions and actively listening to answers is an effective way to gather information.

1. Students form small groups and listen to directions.

Divide the class into groups of four or five students, and ask each group to send a student to the front of the room. Explain that the students are to imagine that they have been offered a job, and that they must decide whether to accept it. Ask the students to leave the room for a few minutes. Tell them to think about any questions they may have about the job while they are waiting. Suggest that, in order to determine which questions to ask, they think about what is most important to them (e.g., what they value, what they would like to get out of a job).

While the students are out of the room, explain to the groups that they will be answering questions about the job. Have students write this information for their responses:

- The hours are from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
- The job is working as an assistant in the school office.
- An assistant photo copies, changes bulletin boards, and cleans and sets up classrooms.
- The supervisor is very strict but fair.
- Assistants must wear a High-vis vest while working.
- The pay is \$8 an hour.

2. Students ask questions to gather information.

Have students come back into the room and join their groups. Explain that the students may ask five questions about the job they have been offered. They are to ask one question at a time to each group member. Their goal is to find out as much information about the job as possible.

Tell the groups that they are only to respond to questions and give only the information that is requested. If a student says, “Tell me about this job,” the response should be, “I can only answer a question.” If a student asks a yes or no question (such as, “Is it a good job?”), the response can be either yes or no—nothing more.

Before the groups begin working, remind them that only five questions can be asked and answered.

3. Students identify effective questions.

When the class has finished, invite students to report whether they decided to accept the job and explain their decision. Then, read aloud all of the details from the job description. Prompt students to evaluate the effectiveness of the questions they posed to their groups by asking questions such as the following:

- How many of the details were you able to find out?
- Were you missing information that was important to you? If so, what?
- What kinds of questions did you ask?
- What kinds of questions should you have asked?

Encourage students to give examples of questions that were successful in gathering the necessary information. Through questions and comments, guide students to recognise that using who, what, where, when, why, and how questions is very effective when gathering information and details.

Point out to students that sometimes just asking questions may not get them all the information they need. When this happens, they may need to use other methods of research. Remind them that if the decision is important to them, they should take the time to gather information. Explain that they will feel much more confident about making decisions when they know they are making informed decisions.

Part III Mystery Interview (15 minutes)

Purpose: Students practice asking relevant questions in order to gather information and make an informed decision.

1. Students practice using their information-gathering skills in interviews.

Have students work with partners to conduct interviews. Give one student in each pair a copy of the “Mystery Person #1” activity sheet, and the other a copy of the “Mystery Person #2” activity sheet. Caution students to keep the details of their identities secret until their interviews.

Explain that students are to take turns interviewing their partners for an article in the school year book about new students. Then, give the following directions:

- As an interviewer, you have five minutes to ask questions. Your purpose is to find out as much as you possibly can about the mystery person in the interview. Remember to ask who, what, where, when, why, and how questions and to take good notes.
- As a mystery person, you have recently transferred to this school. Remember to listen carefully to the questions. If you are asked a question that isn’t answered on your activity sheet, make up an answer that fits your character.

2. Students make an informed decision.

When 10 minutes have passed, ask students to suppose that their soccer team needs another member who knows the game and who could be a key player. Ask them if they would invite the person they interviewed to meet the coach and try out for the spot.

Allow a few seconds for students to make a decision; then, call on students to share their decisions and the reasons for them with the class. (Mystery Person #2 has played soccer since the age of four and is probably an excellent player. Mystery Person #1 is probably not interested in soccer because it is not listed as an interest or hobby on the activity sheet.)

Conclusion *(2 minutes)*

Ask students to summarise what they learned about asking effective questions to gather information. Elicit from students the following **key points** that were taught in this lesson:

- Before making decisions, take the time to get the information you need.
- Asking the right questions and listening to the answers is an effective way to get information.
- Informed decisions are always the best decisions.

Student Assessment

1. In what ways is gathering information an important part of the decision making process?
2. List three things you can do to gather information.

LESSON EXTENSIONS

Using Quotations

“It’s better to be boldly decisive and risk being wrong than to agonize at length and be right too late.”

Ask, “Do you agree or disagree with this statement?” Have students write a paragraph supporting their choice, and hold a mini debate on the subject.

Math Connection

Watch WooTube Eddie Woo and practise a new math strategy.

Writing in Your Journal

Have students interview adults they know about important decisions they have made. Remind students to use who, what, when, where, why, and how questions.

Using Technology

Students play Celebrity Heads or Guess Who.

Homework

Have the class plan and conduct a poll on factors that influence people’s decisions about what music to buy. (Possible answers might include streaming sites, radio, movie soundtracks, reviews, recommendations, in-store play, price, etc.)

Tally the results in class, and have students create bar graphs to chart the results.

Additional Activity

Have each student find a news article and list the details that correspond to the following questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Students should also list how the article is relevant to their lives.

As a class, discuss the details of the articles and how asking the questions helped students discover the articles' relevance and what they were about.

MYSTERY PERSON #1

MIKA LEE

- ❖ You were born in Fiji.
- ❖ Your birthday is October 2.
- ❖ You have no middle name.
- ❖ You moved to Australia with your family last year.
- ❖ You have one sister and one brother.
- ❖ Your sister is older than you, and your brother is younger.
- ❖ Most of your relatives live in Australia, but you have an aunt, uncle, and cousins who live in New Zealand.
- ❖ Your family has two pets: a dog named Mister and a cat named Spike.
- ❖ You speak Fijian as well as English.
- ❖ Your favourite foods are spaghetti, fish, and ice cream.
- ❖ Your favourite color is orange.
- ❖ Your favourite sport is basketball.
- ❖ You like to play video games, swim, and ride your bike.
- ❖ You would like to be a veterinarian someday.
- ❖ You would also like to be a professional basketballer.
- ❖ You would like to travel around the world someday.

MYSTERY PERSON #2

JERRY SOLO

- ❖ You were born in Cordoba.
- ❖ Your birthday is February 28.
- ❖ Your middle name is Rawson, which is your mother's maiden name.
- ❖ You are an Australian citizen, but you were born in Argentina. Your family moved back to Australia when you were four years old.
- ❖ Your family moved here on account of your father's new job.
- ❖ You have one sister.
- ❖ Your sister is younger than you.
- ❖ Your grandparents and most of your other relatives live near you.
- ❖ Your family has no pets.
- ❖ You speak English.
- ❖ Your favourite foods are burritos, pizza, and steak.
- ❖ Your favourite color is purple.
- ❖ Your favourite sport is soccer—you have played it since the age of four.
- ❖ You also like to play basketball, and you are learning to swim.
- ❖ You love to read adventure and mystery stories, go to movies, and cook.
- ❖ You would like to be a pilot someday.
- ❖ You would also like to be an actor or a chef.