

What Matters to Me?

Keystone Principle #5 – Incentives produce “predictable” responses

Monthly Teaching Theme Student Assessment

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I. Vocabulary

Match each word with its definition.

_____ 1. Incentive

_____ 2. Disincentive

_____ 3. Subsidize

_____ 4. Penalize

- a. To reward behavior that you want to see increase.
- b. A factor, often a monetary policy or a disadvantage, that discourages people from doing something.
- c. To punish behavior that you want to see decrease.
- d. Any reward or benefit, such as money, advantage, or good feelings, that motivates people to do something.

(continued on next page)

II. For each of the statements in the table below, indicate

- Whether it is an incentive or a disincentive (check one box)
- Whether you think it will or will not work
- Explain why, and if you think it will not work, say what might work better to get the desired result.

| Statement | Incentive? | Disincentive? | Will It Work? | Why? |
|---|------------|---------------|---------------|------|
| A math teacher wants students to do their homework. She makes homework worth half of the students' grades. | | | | |
| The government wants more people to buy hybrid cars so it puts a \$1000 "Save the Earth Tax" on all gasoline-powered vehicles. | | | | |
| A parent wants his child to keep his room clean so he offers to take him to an amusement park if his room stays clean for a year. | | | | |

III. Journal

List two things your school does that are positive incentives and two that are negative incentives or disincentives. How does each of these four things affect the choices you make? What do your choices show about what you value at school?