



**Time
Required:**
30 minutes

Grade Level:
9-12th grades

Skills for the 21st Century Marketplace Activity

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“Integrity” Activity

Infusionomics Themes, Keystone Economic Principles, and Skills for the 21st Century Marketplace:

•**THEME: CHOICES**

- Keystone Economic Principle™ #1:** We all make mistakes
- Keystone Economic Principle™ #3:** All choices have consequences
- Skills:** 3. Ethics; a. Moral standards
- Skills:** 3. Ethics; a. Moral actions
- Skills:** 4. Integrity

•**THEME: COSTS**

- Keystone Economic Principle™ #2:** TANSTAFFL™ (There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch)
- Skills:** 7. Critical Thinking; d. Solve Problems; i. Solve different kinds of non-familiar problems in both conventional and innovative ways
- Skills:** 8. Contextual Learning; b. Flexibility; iii. Understand, negotiate and balance diverse views and beliefs to reach workable solutions, particularly in multi-cultural environments

** For additional standards and content references, please see the [end of document](#).

Overview:

In the Integrity activity, students will be presented with a situation and they must decide how “right” or “wrong” they think the character’s action is. They will stand on one end of the room if they think it is completely wrong, and on the other if they think it is completely right (and anywhere in the middle, depending on their views).

Objectives:

This activity will require students to begin thinking about integrity and doing what is right and wrong, even when it is not clear.

Materials and Handouts:

One copy of [Supplement #1](#) (for teacher use only)

Activity:

- Clear the desks away to make room in the middle of the classroom. Have the students stand in the middle of the classroom.
- Tell the students that you are going to present them with situations, and they must determine how “right” or “wrong” the character’s action is. Tell them that they should stand by point A (determined by previously the teacher) if they have no doubt that the action is completely right. Tell them that they should stand by point B (determined previously by the teacher) if they believe they have no doubt that the action is completely wrong. They may stand anywhere in between to show that they think it is somewhere in the middle (this should be a continuum).
- Give the first situation:
 - Amir is taking a test in school and cannot remember the answer to #2, so he looks over at the person’s test next to him to get the answer.
- Have the students move to the place on the continuum where they believe shows how “right”/”wrong” Amir’s action is.
- *For more scenarios for the students to interact with, see [Supplement #1](#).*

Writing Prompt or Class Discussion:

Here are some optional questions for writing prompts and/or class discussion.

- Why do you think we had people standing in between the far sides of “right” and “wrong” in the exercise?
- What effect did your classmates’ decision have on your decision?
 - Do you think that people often make moral decisions based upon what the people around them are doing?
 - Give some examples of a time when you have seen someone make a moral decision based on what their peers were doing.
 - Can you think of examples in which peer pressure can encourage someone to do something good? Can you think of examples in which peer pressure can encourage someone to do something bad?
- Why would it sometimes be difficult to determine if something is right or wrong?
- When situations do arise when you cannot immediately tell if it is right or wrong, how do you decide what to do? How should you decide what to do?
- What are some principles that help us determine what to do in difficult situations?
- Should we always do what benefits ourselves the most, or should we also take into consideration the effect it has on other people?
- Why do people sometimes do what they know is wrong?
- What can be the long-term effects of doing something that you know is wrong, such as lying, cheating or stealing?
- What do you think integrity means?
- Why is it important for us to have integrity?
- How do you show integrity every day? At school? At home? On your sports teams?

Additional Standards and Content References

Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics:

- Standard #11 : Institutions; Rule of law
- Standard #14: Entrepreneurship; Non-financial incentives that motivate entrepreneurs
- Standard #16 : Role of Government; Redistribution of Income, Maintaining Competition, Maintaining Regulation

Partnership for 21st Century Life Skills Concept:

- Leadership & Responsibility > Guide and Lead Others > Demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior in using influence and power
- Learning and Innovation Skills > Communication and Collaboration
- Learning and Innovation Skills > Creativity and Innovation>Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education:

- Entrepreneurial Skills; B. Entrepreneurial Traits/Behaviors; Leadership; B.01 Demonstrate Honesty and Integrity

Economics Vocabulary:

- Positive economics** – the study of facts and theories about the way the world works
- Normative economics** – the study of what is most desirable, requiring value judgments
- Incentives** – rewards and penalties that affect behavior
- Moral hazard** – a situation in which one party to a transaction has [...the] incentive [...] to extract unearned rewards from another party or behave unethically
- Self-interest** – concern for one’s own safety & well-being; contrasts with selfish, which is not economically rational, particularly in the long-term, and goes against social norms of fairness
- Source: *EconEdLink.org* by the Council for Economic Education

Keystone Economic Principles™:

- For more information: http://infusionomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Keystone_Cheat.pdf

Supplement #1

Ethical Situations to Consider

- Nigel's coach in soccer tells the whole team that if they have 100% attendance at practice Monday through Friday that they do not have to practice on Saturday. If even one person misses practice, however, they will have to have practice on Saturday morning from 8a.m.-10a.m. On Tuesday, at the same time as soccer practice, Nigel's younger sister has her birthday party. Nigel's sister would be crushed if Nigel didn't come to her party. After much contemplation, Nigel decides to skip soccer practice to go to his sister's party, and because of him, the team has to practice on Saturday morning.
- Caitlin works at a clothing store in the mall. She has been told that she is not allowed to use the phone for personal calls. But when there are no customers in the store, Caitlin will sometimes spend up to 45 minutes talking with her boyfriend.
- Carmen has lost his pen. He thinks, "Tabitha has more pens than she could ever use. I'll just borrow one from her," so he takes a pen out of Tabitha's desk without asking.
- Jamal opens up the first laundry mat in a small community outside of Los Angeles. Because there are no other laundry mats around, Jamal can charge however much he wants because the residents of the town do not have another option. Jamal chooses to charge double what most other laundry mats in the country charge.
- A classmate says something mean about Marco's younger brother on the playground, so Marco punches him in the stomach.
- A single mother named Sarah has 2 children who have been very sick for the last week. She has spent all her paycheck on medicines for the children. She has run out of food and can't afford to buy any more. Sarah goes to the grocery store and takes pancake mix and some cereal bars without paying.
- A friend asks Rita if her hair looks good. Rita thinks that her friend's hair looks terrible that day, but says, "I love it!" anyway.
- At work, Michael notices that his boss is lying about the money that the company is earning so that the company doesn't have to pay as much money for taxes. Michael has tried confronting the boss about the issue before, but the boss will not listen. If Michael turns in his boss, the company will likely be shut down and everyone will lose their jobs. Michael decides not to say anything to the authorities and let's his boss continue to skip out on paying taxes.