

Living Market Simulation

Instructions

Materials needed: Career and Salary Cards

1. Tell students they are participating in a simulation of the current labor market. Explain that the labor market is a market for work. The people who are able to work make up the market and the employers who want to buy their work. The employers offer a price (a salary) to purchase that work based on supply and demand.
2. Ask for a volunteer, the first volunteer receives the "Unemployed" card. Explain to the class that statistically, there will always be people that are unemployed.
3. Ask the class who wants to be a "Police Officer." Present that student with the career and salary card, announcing the salary to the class. Remind the class that the salary is an average for that profession in West Central Texas.
4. There are 3 "special circumstance" cards.
 - Video Game Designer – Tell this student if they want to get this job, they must move to Dallas, as there is not a high demand for it here in West Central Texas.
 - Cosmetologist – Emphasize that this career has an average salary well below the median wage, and is not in high demand in West Central Texas.
 - Registered Nurses/LVN – Ask for 3 volunteers for a nurse. Ask them if they would rather go to school for 2 or 4 years after high school and give them the corresponding card. Explain to the class that nurses are in such high demand that there would be 3 out of this small group.
5. Repeat step 3 for all other careers.
6. Tell the class you are an employer who really needs an electrician right now. Offer the current electrician an incentive(s) card to see if they will come work for you. You can also act as the original employer and counter-offer with the incentives. Explain to the class that this is supply and demand in action.
7. Tell the unemployed person that you also need a welder. Ask the student if they are willing to come work for your company for minimum wage, receive on the job training, and go to school part time in order to move up to a full time welder in the future. You can offer a student tuition reimbursement incentive card.
8. Wrap up the simulation by summarizing the labor market and reviewing the concepts of supply and demand. Encourage the students to research careers they are interested in using www.texascareercheck.com

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