

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CASE STUDY

Five-Year Reunion Kickoff

What + Why: Get acquainted with the case study. Notice, wonder, and make predictions to start connecting your thinking to real-life choices.

What is a Case Study?

Every decision you make, big or small, requires you to look at a situation, figure out what's really going on, and choose a path forward. That's not just a life skill. That's exactly the kind of thinking case studies are designed to build.

Case studies are a way of exploring real situations and connecting what you're learning to the kinds of decisions people face every day. So what exactly is a case study? It's an in-depth look at a real person, group, or situation, used to understand a problem and explore possible solutions. You're not being asked to memorize facts. You're being asked to think.

The case study process generally follows three steps.

1. First, you identify the situation: who is this person, what's their context, and what details stand out?
2. Next, you dig a little deeper to determine the core problem, looking past the surface to understand what's really driving the challenge.
3. Finally, you make an informed recommendation. What would you do, and why? That last part matters most, because your reasoning is more important than your conclusion.

As you work through these cases, keep this in mind: two people can look at the exact same situation and reach different, valid conclusions, as long as both can back up their thinking with evidence. Real decisions depend on goals, values, and circumstances, which is what makes them complex and worth practicing.



As you learn more and hear other perspectives your thinking might shift. That's not a sign you were wrong. That's a sign you're getting better. The best decision-makers stay curious, stay open, and know how to explain their reasoning. That's what you're building in case-based learning.

Five-Year Reunion

Meet your five classmates from high school. You've all come together at the high school reunion to catch up five years after graduation. All of you have started in the same place, but your lives (jobs, money, and independence) look quite different now.

Supporting Materials:

Unit 1 Case Study: Five-Year Reunion (Case Brief)

Topic 1: Introduction (Case Study)

Profiles (Case Study)

Financial Snapshots (Case Study)

Part 1

Instructions:

1. Read the **Unit 1 Case Brief**. Pay close attention to the **Case Question**: What choices help someone make the most of their earnings, from a first paycheck to a future career, so they can spend, save, and plan wisely?
2. Highlight key words and make notes to help you answer:
 - How might this case study help us learn about employment and income?

Part 2

Instructions:

1. Work with your assigned group.
2. Read the **Topic 1: Introduction**, and review your specific case study profile's **Profile** and **Financial Snapshot**. As you read and review, notice important details about their journey.

3. Jot down your first impressions in the KWL Chart:

- What do you *notice* (facts or details you observe)?
- What do you *wonder* (questions or things you're curious about)?

4. Make a prediction using evidence from the chart: Is this case study profile financially stable or challenged?

Focus on analyzing the data, not making judgments.

Person	What I Notice	What I Wonder	Prediction: Financially Stable or Challenged?
EXAMPLE	<i>works part-time & rents an apartment; has car loan & credit card debt</i>	<i>How much does he spend monthly on debt payments?</i>	<i>Challenged—might be struggling with debt</i>
Kiana 			
Rafael 			
Maya 			
Brianna 			
Trey 			

Part 3

Instructions:

1. Introduce your case study profile.
2. Share your prediction.
3. Record classmates' information and predictions about the other case study profiles on the KWL Chart.