

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ACTIVITY

Pathway Possibilities

What + Why: Use decision trees to compare real post-high-school paths for a case study profile so you can practice making evidence-based choices in uncertain, real-world situations.

After high school, there is rarely just one clear path forward. Each option comes with trade-offs: cost, time, flexibility, and future opportunities. In this activity, your group will focus on one case study profile and use real information to decide which path is best supported by the evidence.

Supporting Materials:

High School Flashbacks (Case Study)

Career Path Comparison Table (previously completed)

Part 1: Build Your Pathway Decision Tree

Instructions:

1. Review the High School Flashbacks and your completed Career Path Comparison Table for your case study profile.
2. Create one decision-tree branch for each of three pathways your person is considering or should consider.
3. Each branch should include:
 - 1 or 2 evidence points
 - at least 1 uncertainty or trade-off
 - financial or lifestyle impact

4. Choose at least one branch and provide at least one detail about how the job or field may change over time.
5. Write a short, values-based justification of the strongest choice for this profile. (Note: It does not need to be the actual pathway the case study profile chose!)
6. Prepare to share your recommended path, one evidence point, and one trade-off or uncertainty during peer feedback.

Remember:

- Use the evidence already provided.
- Choose what fits the case study profile, not what you would choose.
- Cost, debt, timeline, income, stability, and flexibility all matter.

Part 2: Peer Feedback

Before finalizing your pathway decision tree, share your suggested pathway with peers and use their feedback to strengthen your reasoning.

Instructions:

1. Each presenter has 1 minute to share:
 - their chosen case study profile
 - suggested pathway
 - one piece of evidence
 - one trade-off or uncertainty
2. Listen carefully to feedback from two peers.

When it is your turn to provide feedback, be constructive.

Feedback sentence starters:

- One reason your choice made sense is . . .
- One area you could strengthen is . . .

Part 3: Implement Peer Feedback

Instructions:

Use feedback to strengthen one part of your decision tree or explanation:

- evidence
- trade-off or uncertainty
- cost, debt, or income impact
- lifestyle or flexibility impact
- explanation of why the suggested pathway fits this person

Pathway Possibilities Rubric

Criteria	4 - Strong	3 - Proficient	2- Developing	1- Beginning
Path Decision & Values-Based Justification	Decision is clear and accurate, and the justification explicitly connects the recommended path to the person's values, goals, priorities, and circumstances.	Decision is clear and accurate, and includes a values-based justification connected to the profile.	Decision is stated and includes some values-based reasoning, but the connection to the profile is vague or incomplete.	Decision is missing or unclear, or justification is absent or unrelated to the person's values or circumstances.
Use of Evidence	Relevant, accurate evidence is used to support the entire decision.	Relevant, accurate evidence is used to support most of the decision.	Evidence is present but unclear, inaccurate, or weakly connected.	Evidence is missing, inaccurate, or unrelated to the case study profile.
Collaboration & Shared Reasoning	All members contribute; reasoning reflects shared discussion and joint decision-making.	Most members contribute; reasoning is mostly collaborative.	Uneven participation; reasoning comes from a few members.	Minimal collaboration; reasoning comes from one member or is unclear.
Decision Tree Completeness & Clarity	Decision tree clearly shows multiple pathways, trade-offs, and uncertainties.	Decision tree shows pathways and trade-offs with minor gaps.	Decision tree is incomplete or shows limited pathways or trade-offs.	Decision tree is missing or does not represent the decision clearly.
Accuracy of Financial Concepts	Accurately applies relevant financial concepts from the lesson (e.g., income, costs, loans, aid, repayment, stability) with no major errors.	Mostly accurate use of financial concepts, with minor errors or omissions that do not affect overall reasoning.	Some correct financial concepts are used, but there are noticeable inaccuracies or misunderstandings.	Financial concepts are largely inaccurate, unclear, or missing.
Reflection & Conclusion	Clearly summarizes the chosen path and key trade-offs, reinforcing the group's reasoning and evidence.	States the chosen path and includes a clear conclusion, though some reasoning or trade-offs may be briefly explained.	Conclusion is present but unclear, incomplete, or loosely connected to the group's reasoning.	Conclusion or reflection is missing or does not connect to the decision.