

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



CASE STUDY

Primer: Making Important Life Decisions



Essential Question: What strategies can we use to make the best decisions, given the information that we have?



Consequences: the result or outcome of a choice

Decision-making: the process of making choices by gathering information and considering alternative courses of action

Decision tree: a diagram used to determine the best course of action when there are several possibilities with different outcomes

Key Factors: circumstances and priorities to consider when making decisions

Uncertainty: what is unsure or what we don't know

Some decisions are easy. The options are clear. However, more often, the really important decisions in life can be more difficult. Outcomes different to predict and circumstances may change, making it feel even more difficult.

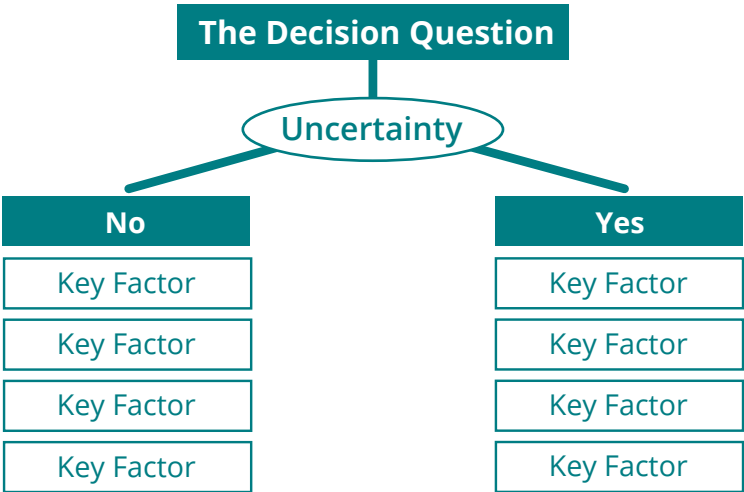
Decision-making is a process to help us make choices. Thoughtful decision-making involves determining what **factors** are important, gathering information about alternative courses of action, and evaluating those alternatives. It helps to think of decision-making in three steps:

Step 1: Define the problem and key factors.

Step 2: Collect information. Carefully consider the source of your information.

Step 3: Evaluate the alternatives and choose the best option.

A **decision tree** is a useful problem solving or decision-making tool. It can help us choose from different options in complex and uncertain situations. When we need clarity, we can use a decision tree to make sense of what we want (preferences and values) and what we know (information). A decision tree can be used for large and small decisions. It can also be used alongside other tools, like a pros and cons list, or a comparison table.



What do you think?

Think about an important decision that you made.

- 1. How did you go about making that decision? Did you use a certain process or tool?

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