

**Problem Solving**

GLO: Complex Thinker

ACTIVITY	RESOURCE	TIME
<p>Bellwork:</p> <p>Distribute the “Wise Choices/Smart Decisions” handout. Have the students read the components of the IDEAL strategy to themselves.</p>	<p>Wise Choices/Smart Decisions</p>	<p>3”</p>
<p>Activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Split the students into groups of 3-4.</li> <li>2) Assign each group one of the scenarios on the “Decision Making Scenarios” handout. Depending upon the size of your class, you may have multiple groups working on the same scenario.</li> <li>3) Have each group read their scenario and complete the “Wise Choices/Smart Decisions” handout in regards to their scenario.</li> <li>4) Have each team share out their solutions.</li> <li>5) Debrief/reflect as a class. (suggestions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you like/dislike about this strategy?</li> <li>• Which step is most important to you when making your decision?</li> <li>• Describe a problem solving strategy that has worked for you in the past.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Decision Making Scenarios</p>	<p>20”</p> <p>7”</p>

**WISE CHOICES/SMART DECISIONS**  
(taken & adapted from lyon.nv.k12.us)

An IDEAL strategy for making decisions:

**I** -- Identify the problem.

**D** -- Determine all the possible solutions or alternatives.

**E** -- Evaluate the positive and negative consequences of each alternative.

**A** -- ACT. Develop a plan of action.

**L** -- Learn from your decisions.

Directions: You will be placed in groups and assigned a scenario. Apply the IDEAL strategy to your scenario.

1. Identify the problem.	
2. Determine all the possible solutions:	
a)	
b)	
c)	
3. Evaluate the positive and negative consequences of each:	
Positive	Negative
a)	a)
b)	b)
c)	c)
4. Develop an <b>action</b> plan.	5. What did you learn?

### **Decision Making Scenarios**

(taken & adapted from lyon.nv.k12.us)

**Scenario A:** It's Saturday and you're looking forward to hanging out with friends and having some fun. However, you get two phone calls early in the morning that make you stop and think. First, a friend calls to invite you to an all-day basketball tournament. With tickets, lunch, and dinner, you figure you'll spend \$50. That would put a dent in the money you're saving for a future goal. Then your neighbors call offering you the opportunity to help paint their apartment. They will pay you \$75 for the day of work. What will you do?

**Scenario B:** Spring Break will start next Monday and you will have two weeks off from school. Your uncle tells you he can get you a job working with him for the week. You have been saving money to buy a used car, and the earnings from this job would help out. Your cousins in Florida want you to come visit them for spring break. They have a nice home with a swimming pool, and you always have a great time with them. What will you do?

**Scenario C:** You are at the beach, away from your family, hanging out with your friends. You have access to alcohol and 'weed' and are encouraged to partake and feeling pressured to fit in. You are just a few weeks from graduating and have applied for a great paying 'high demand' job that offers you a great career after high school. Drug testing is a prerequisite and random drug testing continues after you start the job. A positive drug test will keep you from getting and keeping the job. Not partying with your friends may result in alienation. What will you do?

**Scenario D:** Your best friend recently had an injury that kept him from working. His parents are on a very limited income and cannot help him make his insurance and truck payment. When he bought the truck, he felt he could easily afford it with the money he made in his part-time job. Now he is desperate and needs to figure out a way to make his payments. He has confided in you an illegal activity that would give him the money and needs your help. He has never asked you to do anything like this before and would not unless he was desperate. He feels there is very little possibility of getting caught. However, if the two of you get caught and convicted, it will carry a felony conviction. A felony conviction would carry with it many negative consequences including not qualifying for many jobs and the military. What will you do?