

# Decision making



Recommended  
6th grade



Length:  
95 minutes

## About this lesson

To introduce decision making strategies to support future goal setting, students will share how they have made decisions in the past, evaluate the effectiveness of those strategies, and develop their understanding of making informed, responsible decisions.

## Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- understand the importance of making informed, responsible decision when faced with important choices
- understand the important of considering the consequences of potential decisions
- explore the difference between gut and logic decisions
- reflect on an important decision they've recently made

## Driving question

How do I make good decisions?

## Future-ready skills

Evaluating

Assessing

Judging

Responsibility

Goal Setting

## Lesson breakdown

35  
minutes

### Activity 1: Prior decisions

In this activity, students will share ways they have made prior decisions and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies they used.

45  
minutes

### Activity 2: Xello lesson: Decision making

In this activity, students will complete the **Decision making** lesson in Xello where they will learn the importance of making informed, responsible decisions when faced with important choices.

15  
minutes

### Activity 3: Decision outcomes

Using a physical or virtual board, ask each student to contribute 2-3 sticky notes in response to this prompt: *Think about one decision you'll be making in the near future that requires some logic and gut; what do you want from this decision?* Look at the wants as a whole group. Are similar wants related to similar decisions? Is it possible to have similar decisions, but varying wants?

## Xello entry point

You can use this lesson at any point during students' exploration of Xello, as they are not required to complete any prerequisites prior to Xello's **Decision making** lesson.

## Vocabulary

- Options
- Outcomes
- Consequences
- Informed guess
- Advice
- Perspectives
- Logic
- Gut

# Activity 1 - Prior decisions



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35 minutes

## Inquiry prompts

- What important decisions have I made in the past?
- What strategies do I use to help me make decisions?
- Why are some decision making strategies more effective than others?

## Before you begin

1. Create a copy and share the [Decision making strategies Google doc](#) (available in [Spanish](#)) through **Assignments** on Xello.
2. Create a Xello assignment. This is where students will submit the link to the Google doc after they've made their contributions.
3. Ensure that students are able to log into their accounts and access the Xello lesson: **Decision making**

## Teaching strategies

In this activity, students activate prior knowledge to recognize how they have made decisions in the past.

- 1 Students will:
  - Contribute at least one strategy to the Google doc, rate its effectiveness (somewhat, mostly, or very effective) based on their prior use, and include a short anecdote to justify their rating.
  - Rate another strategy they are familiar with and include another short anecdote to justify this rating.
  - Submit the assignment after making their contributions to the Google doc.
- 2 After students contribute to the Google doc, they continue on to the Xello lesson: **Decision making**.
- 3 **OPTIONAL:** Following the Xello lesson students can review the Google doc and include new anecdotes or strategies.

## Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- [Decision making strategies](#) Google doc (also available in [Spanish](#))
- Physical or virtual sticky notes

## Artifacts

Students will contribute to the Decision making strategies Google doc and submit their work through Xello **Assignments**.

## Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Decision making



Recommended:  
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Length:  
45 minutes

### About this activity

In the first activity students shared ways they have made prior decisions and evaluated the effectiveness of the strategies they used.

In this activity, students will complete the **Decision making** lesson in Xello, where they will learn the importance of making informed, responsible decisions when faced with important choices.

### Inquiry prompts

- What big decisions do you make now? What decisions are made for you?
- Who or what influences your decisions the most?
- What kind of big decisions do you think you'll have to make as an adult?
- How do you know when you've made a good decision?
- Should people make decisions with their head (based on facts) or with their heart (based on feelings)?

### Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the [Decision making slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) to use as a helpful teaching aid before and after the Xello lesson.
2. Review the slides (including the speaker notes section) for discussion strategies and prompts.
3. Update slide 5 of the presentation with your students' Xello sign in format. If you don't know your students' Xello login format check out [Sign in to Xello](#) for support.

### Teaching strategies

Use the following strategies to set your students up for success:

- 1 Before students start the Xello lesson, engage them in a classroom discussion using a few of the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up** activity slide of the [Decision making slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)), or choose your own.
- 2 Help your students log in to their Xello account. Project your screen as you model how to navigate to the lesson using your demo student account. From the student dashboard, click on a lesson to get started. If the lesson you want isn't visible, access it by selecting **View all lessons** below the lesson shown, or **View lessons** on the left of your screen.
- 3 Students finished early? Encourage your students to update their **After high school** goal on **About me**. Have them reconsider the 3 options (**Not sure yet**, **More school or training**, or **Alternate route**) using decision making strategies to help them make an informed choice.

### Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- [Decision making slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))

### Prerequisites

- None

### Artifacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Decision making**.

## Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Decision making



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Length:  
45 minutes

- 4 Students can also explore their dashboard feed where they'll find new content about their updated saved careers.
- 5 Once all students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the [Decision making slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) to have them revisit their answers to the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.
- 6 **Classroom discussion strategy: Round robin:** Lead a round robin style discussion in which each person shares their answer to the final inquiry prompt: Should people make decisions with their head (based on facts) or with their heart (based on feelings)?

**OPTIONAL:** Document the responses. Is there a clear consensus in the class?