

Women's History Month Opportunity Cost

INTRODUCTION: In this activity, students learn the hard lesson of making a choice. Just like the amazing featured women, they will have to make a decision, thus giving up other possible choices.

TIME REQUIRED: 25-30 minutes.

OBJECTIVE:

- The student will be introduced to the concept of opportunity cost: "In a choice, the benefit expected from the highest valued alternative forgone; or **what you give up** when you make a choice."

MATERIALS:

- Prepared color sheets (duplicated front-to-back)
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Scissors

ECONOMIC CONCEPTS:

Because we cannot have everything we want (scarcity), we must make choices. Each time we make a choice, we give something up. There is always a next best alternative when making any choice. The value of this next best alternative (or second favorite choice) is the opportunity cost.

PROCEDURE:

1. Prepare the materials prior to class. Run off the supplied color sheets, front to back in different combinations.
2. Introduce the lesson by telling the students that they will be doing an activity based on the enterprising women Dolores Huerta, Hellen Keller, Kathrine Johnson, and Wilma Mankiller.
3. Inform the students that they will be helping create a display showcasing the featured women.
4. Distribute the prepared activity sheets and coloring tools.
5. Instruct the students to color both sides to the best of their ability. When the students are finished, give them a pair of scissors and inform them they must cut out ONE of their colored sheets for display. Explain that the other side will be destroyed, so the chance to display that side will be their opportunity cost. (Be prepared for complaints from the students, some who will have a hard time choosing which item to keep.) Display student work on a bulletin board titled: Celebrate Women's History Month 2022: Providing Healing, Promoting Hope.







