

## South Carolina Academic/Career Development Integration Activity

**Title**            **Historic Decision (ESS-5)\***

**Subject**        **Social Studies**

**Grade Level(s)** **5**

**SC Content Standard** – United State Studies:1865 to the Present: Standard 5-5. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the social, economic, and political events that influenced the United States during the Cold War era.

5-5.4. Explain the course of the Cold War, including differing economic and political philosophies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the United States, the spread of Communism, McCarthyism, the Korean Conflict, the Berlin Wall, the space race, the Cuban missile crisis, and the Vietnam War.(P, G, E, H)

### **National Career Development Guidelines Goal/Indicator**

Career Management GOAL CM2. Use a process of decision-making as one component of career development.

Indicator CM2.A2. Demonstrate the use of a decision-making model.

#### **Career Development Objectives**

1. The student will analyze John F. Kennedy's decision to blockade Soviet ships from entering Cuba.
2. The student will understand the steps in the *Planful Decision-Making* model.

#### **Assessment**

1. The student will complete the *President Kennedy Decides* worksheet.
2. The student will identify a personal decision and complete the *Planful Decision-Making* worksheet for that decision.

#### **Preparation**

- Prior Learning—Instruction on the Cuban missile crisis.
- Handouts/Worksheets—*President Kennedy Decides* worksheet and *Planful Decision-Making* worksheet
- Resources/Materials—Writing materials, textbook, and other resource books
- Time Required—60 minutes plus homework

\*Adapted from *Career Development Tool Kit Grades 6-8*, Linda Kobylarz & Associates, 2000. Used with permission.

#### **Procedures**

**Part One (40 minutes)**

- In this activity, students will analyze John F. Kennedy's decision to blockade Soviet ships from entering Cuba by applying the steps of the *Planful Decision-Making* process. They will use the same process to make a personal decision.
- Begin by discussing the Cuban missile crisis. Use the *President Kennedy Decides* worksheet to guide the discussion and to introduce the *Planful Decision-Making* process.
- Give students a copy of the *President Kennedy Decides* worksheet. Give them time to write their answer to the first question and then discuss it. Follow the same procedure for each of the five questions on the worksheet.
- Brainstorm with students some decisions they recently made. Explore how they make the decision. Did they talk to others? Did they consider many alternatives? Did they get good information? Did they make a snap judgment?
- Give students the *Planful Decision-Making* worksheet and review it with them. Tell students to complete the worksheet for a decision they have to make.

### **Part Two - Career Development Connections (20 minutes)**

- Engage students in a discussion of the *Planful Decision-Making* process. Invite students to share the decision they had to make and the steps they took. What step was difficult? What step took a lot of time? Would they use this way of making decisions in the future? For what kinds of decisions?
- Brainstorm some big decisions students will have to make in the future. Stress the importance of using the *Planful Decision-Making* process to help them make the best decision.

### **Crosswalks**

#### **SC Career Guidance Standard/Competency**

Learning to Work Standard 2. Students will demonstrate decision-making, goal-setting, problem-solving, and communication skills.

Competency 2.1. Know how to use decision-making, problem-solving, and goal-setting processes.

#### **Key Employability Skills**

Thinking Skills—Creative thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making

## ***President Kennedy Decides***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: President Kennedy had a big decision to make during the Cuban missile crisis. Use the Planful Decision-Making steps to analyze his decision. Answer each of the questions.

**The Planful  
Decision-Making  
process has 7 steps:**

1. Define the problem  
(What decision  
do you need to make?)

2. Gather information

3. Explore alternatives

4. Consider the  
Consequences and risks  
of each alternative

5. Take action

6. Review the results

7. Make new decisions  
as needed

**1. What is the problem,  
decision Kennedy had  
to make?**

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**2. What information did  
Kennedy have?**

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**3. What were the alternatives?**

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**4. What were the risks?**

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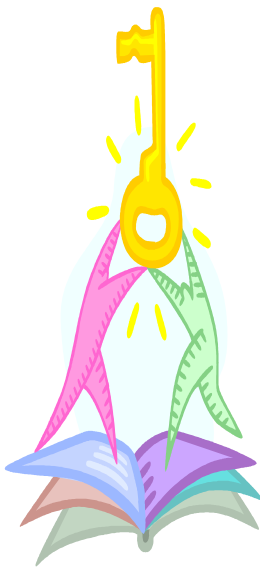
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**5. What did Kennedy decide?**

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**6. What was the result?**

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***Planful Decision-Making***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Choose a decision you have to make. Use the Planful Decision-Making steps to help you make your decision. Answer each of the questions.

## ***Now It's Your Turn!***

**The Planful  
Decision-Making  
process has 7 steps:**

1. Define the problem  
(What decision  
do you need to make?)

2. Gather information

3. Explore alternatives

4. Consider the  
Consequences and risks  
of each alternative

5. Take action

6. Review the results

7. Make new decisions  
as needed

**1. What is the problem,  
decision you have to make?**

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**2. What information do  
you have?**

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**3. What are the alternatives?**

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**4. What are the risks?**

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**5. What do you decide?**

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**6. What is the result?**

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**7. Make a new decision  
as needed**

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