

## Silent Auction

ACTIVITY SUBMITTED BY RAY HENSON, CABOT JHS

UNIT: Self-Awareness

TASK: Discuss standards/values as they relate to the world of work.

ACTIVITY TYPE: SCANS, Integration

APPROXIMATE TIME: One class period

MATERIALS: List of thirty values (include a few material values such as sports cars and jewelry as well as humanitarian values such as helping the community, independence, etc.)

### PROCEDURE:

1. Discuss the difference between personal/work values.
2. Tell students that they are going to get to purchase the things that are most important to them. Give each student \$2,000. (Use play money unless you have unlimited wealth.)
3. Show students a list of the values. Discuss the meaning of any terms the students may not understand.
4. Give students time to decide how they will “spend” their fortune. They may bid up to the amount of money they have for one item, or they may divide their money to purchase more than one of the things they really value.
5. Call students attention to three “prize doors.” Tell students before they begin to bid on their values that if they have \$500 left after the auction, they may purchase the value behind one of three doors, but they cannot know what’s behind the doors. The unknown values have a negative connotation to impress on students the importance of pursuing the things you value the most.
6. Conduct the auction. The “value” goes to the highest bidder. Give students a certificate to “authenticate” their bids.
7. Allow students to bid on the “prize doors” if they have enough money left.

ENRICHMENT: Ask students to identify the three values that are most important to them. Encourage students to identify values from the “positive” list or come up with other values of their own. Consider giving all students who select a humanitarian value a reward of some type.

## **Values Auction**

- 1. To be a famous rock star**
- 2. To never be terminally ill**
- 3. To be very intelligent**
- 4. To be a famous athlete**
- 5. To be beautiful**
- 6. To be the president of the United States**
- 7. To have a great body**
- 8. To be a famous model**
- 9. To be a school teacher**
- 10. To get a college degree**
- 11. To have a beautiful complexion**
- 12. To be a social worker and help children**
- 13. To be a professional doctor or lawyer**
- 14. To be a missionary overseas**
- 15. To be a good parent and have a large family**
- 16. To live a long happy life**
- 17. To own an expensive sports car**
- 18. To marry a good looking person**
- 19. To own my own successful business**
- 20. To help the homeless find a place to live**
- 21. To win a million dollars in the lottery**
- 22. To travel around the world**
- 23. To help the elderly in the nursing home**
- 24. To have a secure job with good benefits**
- 25. To be an officer in the military**
- 26. To stay at home and raise happy children**
- 27. To be a famous movie star**
- 28. To have lots of real close friends**
- 29. To be a successful artist, musician or dancer**
- 30. To be wise**

## **Values Auction Instructions**

The purpose of the values auction is to allow students the opportunity to see what they value most from the list given, but to also see what other students' value as well.

Choose a trusted banker from the class to dispense and collect money.

Each student is given \$2000.00. Silent bidding begins at 100.00 and increases incrementally by 100.00. The highest bidder buys the value. Students may not overbid, borrow money or sell values. Students bid by raising their hand or a number.

I put the values on the overhead, but PowerPoint would be better and offer them one at a time for bidding.

At the conclusion of the auction four doors will be offered to any student with \$500.00 or more. The value behind the door is not shown until after the purchase is made. Write these on the inside of a folder or put them on PowerPoint

Door #1 "Dropped out of high school to make minimum wage flipping burgers"  
Moral: No goal, No gain

Door #2 "Bummed around for a year after high school then went to a vocational school"  
Moral: Lost Sight of Goal

Door #3 "Followed friends into the army to fight in the Middle East"  
Moral: No Plan, Someone else will Plan for You

Door #4 "Went gambling to hit it big, but lost it all"  
Moral: Nothing worthwhile comes easily

Moral of the doors: You have an opportunity to go after the values you cherish. If you wait for doors to open up with fantastic surprises that will make you happy you are wasting your precious time.

I offer peppermints to the students who purchased values of noble causes. For example: teacher, social worker, elderly, homeless, and good parent. I purchased a gavel and honed my speed speaking skills and throw in some humor and the kids love it.

# **Door #1**

**“Dropped out of  
high school  
to make  
minimum wage  
flipping  
burgers”**

**Moral:  
No goal, No gain**

# **Door #2**

**“Bummed  
around after  
high school then  
went to a  
vocational  
school”**

**Moral:  
Lost Sight of  
Goal**

# **Door #3**

**“Followed  
friends into the  
army to fight in  
the Middle East”**

**Moral:  
No Plan,  
Someone else  
will Plan for You**

# **Door #4**

**“Went gambling  
to hit it big, but  
lost it all”**

**Moral:  
Nothing  
worthwhile  
comes easily**