

Decision-Making and Agency: Evaluating Consequences

Lesson Length: One hour

Objective:

Students will be able to evaluate how technology and manufacturing impacted standards of living in the US and communicate the ethical and societal consequences of these developments.

Standards:

Decision-Making and Agency: The ability to make caring and constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions across diverse situations. This includes the capacity to consider ethical standards and safety concerns, and to evaluate the benefits and consequences of various actions for personal, social and collective wellbeing.

DMA.9-11.5 Evaluates ethical, safety and societal consequences when making decisions

Driving Concept 8: Access to Democracy and Power from the 1980s-Present Day

US2.85 Evaluate the extent to which advances in technology and investments in capital goods increased standards of living throughout the United States.

Procedure:

Puzzle read [How Did Mass Production and Mass Consumption Take Off After World War II?](#) in groups of 3-4. Each group reads the introduction and identifies key takeaways from one of the following sections (20 min):

- Cheaper inputs
- Automation
- Free trade, Global supply chains, and Companies cater to global markets
- Higher incomes and Birth of consumer credit
- Environmental harm
- Innovation-associated job losses
- Exploitative labor practices

Each group presents to the class (15 min).

Watch the first 5 min 10 sec of this [TED-Ed video](#) on t-shirt production (5 min).

Discuss the following questions as a class (5 min):

- What surprised you?
- What ethical concerns did you learn about?
- How do these practices affect our society?

- What questions do you have?

Watch the first 5 min 9 sec of this [TEDx video](#) on fair trade (5 min).

Discuss the following questions as a class (5 min):

- What surprised you?
- How could fair trade address ethical concerns?
- How does fair trade affect our society?
- What questions do you have?

Exit ticket: Does what you learned today change how you will make decisions as a consumer? If so, why and how? If not, why not? (5 min).

Sources:

[District of Columbia Social and Emotional Learning \(SEL\) Standards \(OSSE\)](#)

[Fair Trade: A Just World Starts with You | Benjamin Conard | TEDxSUNYGeneseo](#)

[How Did Mass Production and Mass Consumption Take Off After World War II? \(Council on Foreign Relations\)](#)

[The life cycle of a t-shirt - Angel Chang \(TED-Ed\)](#)

[Washington, DC K-12 Social Studies Standards \(OSSE\)](#)