



Goods, Services, Leisure Activities, and Competition

Objective: In this activity, students will identify goods, services, and/or leisure activities within their local communities. They will also discuss how competition plays a role within these industries.

Materials: Paper, pen/pencil

Procedure: This activity is best conducted as a “field trip”. If possible, take a walk or a drive through your local community. As you are driving, have your student/students identify what businesses they see and what purposes they serve (do they sell goods, provide services, offer leisure activities, or both?). Have them record on a piece of paper.

Discussion Questions:

1. What businesses did you identify within our community?
2. Which businesses provided goods? What type of goods did they provide?
3. Which businesses provided services? What type of services did they provide?
4. Which businesses provided leisure activities? What types of leisure activities did they provide?
5. Are there any businesses that provided more than one (good, service, leisure activity)?
6. Can you identify two or more businesses that you saw that may be in competition with each other?
7. What role does that competition play in our community?

Model Answers:

1. This should be an extensive list: restaurants, grocery stores, banks, mechanics, gyms, movie theaters, etc.
2. Goods – Grocery stores, restaurants, etc.
3. Services – Banks, mechanics, etc.
4. Leisure activities – Gyms, movie theaters, etc.
5. You can probably find this anywhere. Example: A mechanic provides a service (fixing your car) but might also sell you brake pads (goods). Or a gym provides you a leisure activity, but if you hire a personal trainer, you are paying for a service.
6. McDonald’s vs. Burger King; Napa Auto Parts vs. O’Reilly Auto Parts
7. Because they are competing for customers, they have incentive to provide the highest quality product at the lowest possible price. Competition benefits the consumer and because we have choices, we can be reasonably assured that the products we receive are worthwhile.

Closure:

Our local communities are robust economic systems that provide us with the goods, services, and activities that we most need and desire. We are afforded options, which allows us to choose which businesses best suit our needs.