



Sustainable Financing

Lesson Plan: "You Are Not A Loan": How to Start a Business

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Overview & Purpose: This orientation to our study of sustainable financing will explore the definitions, purposes and constructs of sustainability, starting a business and getting a loan.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to explain sustainability and give examples related to music, finance and the environment.
2. Students will be able to analyze the factors that make a business sustainable.
3. Students will be able to create a loan application and evaluate it in terms of its accuracy and in terms of the capacity for repayment.

Materials Needed

Loan application template

Student devices and access to Google Jamboard

Verification

1. Simulation of sustainability
2. Brainstorming of the interdependent factors surrounding environmental sustainability
3. Discussion of financial sustainability
4. Loan application introduction

Activity

What activity did you take students through to reinforce the concepts you taught during your lesson?

This lesson is an introduction to the concept of sustainability, with an emphasis on both financial and environmental sustainability.

To help students understand the concept of sustainability itself, they will be given a pitch by the teacher and asked to hold, or sustain, that note as long as they can. After several attempts, students will determine that they need to take turns in order to sustain the note itself for the longest amount of time. This demonstration will lead to discussions about the interdependence necessary for sustainability. Students will brainstorm as many factors as possible that are interdependent in sustaining the environment, both human and natural factors, using a Google Jamboard to record their ideas. Because the students will be creating their own products around reusable cloth bags, this discussion will lay the groundwork for lessons.

Students will then be led in a discussion of financial sustainability. The teacher will ask what the students think it would take to start a company and keep it going for a long time. Again, their responses will be recorded on page 2 of the same Jamboard for future reference. They will be encouraged to list both factors that enhance sustainability of a business and those that impede a business' ability to continue functioning. These will be color-coded on the Jamboard for clarification.

After examining these factors, the teacher will lead students through the following essential questions:

1. If you had money to invest in a business, why might you give a business owner money in order to start a business?
2. What would make you want to give the owner the money, and what might make you not

want to invest your money with that owner or business?

3. Are you ever guaranteed that a business will be successful? Why or why not?
4. If you were the person starting a business, what are ways that you could better guarantee that your business would be successful and sustainable for a long time?

Following this discussion, the teacher will introduce students to the elements of the loan application. Students will determine if any other questions should be asked, based on their own perceptions of what makes a successful business. In the following day, students will begin the process of completing the loan application by brainstorming first their team's product, then determining related expenses. Student products will focus on environmental sustainability, designing and marketing reusable fabric bags.