



Lesson Plan: "Labor vs. Leisure: Tradeoffs and Intrinsic Motivation"

Objective:

Students will analyze the labor-leisure tradeoff and the role of intrinsic (nonmonetary) compensation in career and life decisions. They will examine how individuals weigh financial incentives against personal values, fulfillment, and time.

Materials Needed:

- [Game of Thrones clip or summary of Eddard Stark's decision to leave Winterfell for King's Landing.](#)
- Handouts explaining labor-leisure tradeoffs and types of compensation (monetary vs. intrinsic).
- Real-world examples of job roles offering high intrinsic rewards.

Lesson Steps:

1. Introduction (10 minutes):

- Define **labor-leisure tradeoff**: The balance individuals make between earning income through work and enjoying leisure time.
- Discuss **intrinsic compensation**: Nonmonetary rewards like job satisfaction, purpose, or recognition that motivate individuals.
- Provide examples:
 - High-paying but demanding jobs with little leisure (e.g., corporate executives).
 - Intrinsically rewarding but lower-paying roles (e.g., teachers, artists, non-profit workers).

2. Viewing Clip (5 minutes):

- [Show or summarize the Game of Thrones scene where Eddard Stark faces the decision to leave Winterfell and accept the role of Hand of the King.](#)
- Set the context: Highlight the tradeoff between the intrinsic reward of serving honorably and the loss of leisure and personal safety.

3. Group Discussion (15 minutes):

- Divide students into small groups to discuss:

- What factors influenced Eddard Stark’s decision to accept the role of Hand of the King?
- How does this decision illustrate the labor-leisure tradeoff?
- What intrinsic rewards might have motivated him?
- What risks or sacrifices did he make in terms of leisure and personal well-being?

4. Concept Application (20 minutes):

- **Case Study Analysis:**
 - Provide examples of real-world jobs and ask students to analyze the tradeoffs:
 - Corporate lawyer: High monetary compensation, low leisure, limited intrinsic rewards.
 - Park ranger: Moderate monetary compensation, high intrinsic rewards, more leisure.
 - Entrepreneur: Variable monetary compensation, high intrinsic rewards, low leisure.
 - Ask students to evaluate:
 - How do individuals prioritize monetary and intrinsic compensation differently?
 - How does personal value alignment impact these decisions?

5. Wrap-Up and Reflection (10 minutes):

- Summarize key takeaways:
 - Individuals prioritize labor, leisure, and compensation based on personal goals, values, and circumstances.
 - Intrinsic rewards can often outweigh monetary compensation in motivating career choices.
 - Wage changes can significantly impact labor supply decisions, illustrating key economic principles like the backward-bending supply curve.
- Pose a reflective question: How would you balance labor and leisure in your ideal future career?

6. Activity or Homework (20 minutes):

- **Design Your Ideal Job and Respond to Wage Changes:**
 - Have students imagine their future ideal job, considering:
 - Balance of labor and leisure.
 - The mix of monetary and intrinsic compensation they value.
 - Potential tradeoffs they are willing to make (e.g., longer hours for higher pay).
 - After designing their ideal job, introduce the following scenarios:
 - **Scenario 1:** The wage for their job increases by 10%.
 - **Scenario 2:** The wage for their job increases by 1000%.

- Ask students to discuss and record:
 - Would they work more, less, or the same in response to each wage increase? Why?
 - How do the additional earnings compare to the value of their leisure time?
 - Would the increase in wages alter their preferences for monetary versus intrinsic rewards?
- Groups present their job designs and discuss how wage changes influenced their decisions.
- Facilitate a class discussion:
 - Highlight how individual preferences can lead to the backward-bending supply curve for labor, where extremely high wages might lead to reduced labor supply as workers prioritize leisure.