

Lesson # 2 Critical Thinking Project



Grade Level: 4th - 5th Grades

Content Area: Language Arts, Writing, Geography, Math, Computer Literacy, Educational Technology

Time: 1.5 Hours

Technology: Internet Search, Graphics, Spreadsheets

Goal:

The goal of this lesson is for students to research vacation destinations based on their family's vacation interests, needs, and concerns and determine which ones fit their family's budget by creating a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel.

Students will:

- Learn how to develop a personal family travel budget
- Research internet databases by entering specific search criteria.
- Use technology to present financial information.
- Make decisions based on information.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.ustravel.org/news/press-kit/travel-facts-and-statistics>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/us>

<http://www.restaurantrow.com/>

<http://www.cruises.com>

<http://www.hotels.com>

<http://www.expedia.com>

Suggested videos:

[Computer Help : How to Use Excel](#)

Role:

Students will act as financial planners and research various vacation destinations using internet search engines to collect data and create a budget based on their family's interests and concerns.

Audience:

The budget is for the student's family members who are looking for exciting discount summer vacations that fit their budget.

Situation:

The school year is almost over and summer vacations are approaching. Students will use technology to research and collect travel information from internet search engine's in order to critically analyze, make decisions, and present financial information to their family members.

Product / Performance:	<p>Each student will create a one page spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel with three vacation options for their families to consider.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The student must state the dollar amount of the family budget is at the top of the page beneath the title. 2. The travel budget must include dollar amounts for airfare, hotel, car rental, meals, two tours and use the SUM function. 3. The tours and activities should be suitable for adults, young children and teenagers and the destinations selected must meet the family's budget.
Standards and Criteria for Success:	<p>See Critical Thinking Rubric See Spreadsheet Rubric</p>
Assessment:	<p>Teachers and Students participate in the evaluation process by completing the rubrics.</p>
Knowledge:	<p>Declarative Knowledge – students will list specific items concerning their family's vacation budget.</p> <p>Structural Knowledge - students will use critical thinking and analytical skills to determine which vacations options are best for their family based on their research and calculations.</p> <p>Procedural Knowledge – students will use internet search engines for research and analysis and Microsoft Excel to create a Travel budget based on their findings. They will also begin to learn to make decisions based on information.</p>
Feedback:	<p>Student's family member will provide feedback.</p>

Spreadsheet Rubric

Tool	3- Excellent	2 - Satisfactory	1- Needs Improvement
Organization	Appropriate title and headings, all data grouped in logical columns and rows.	Appropriate title and headings, most data grouped in logical columns and rows.	Appropriate title, no headings, data grouping is confusing and hard to follow.
Format	Column widths and height fit data, no truncation or overcrowding, appropriate white space.	Column widths and height mostly fit data, some truncation or overcrowding, little white space.	Column widths and height do not fit data, truncation or overcrowding, in appropriate white space.
Syntax	Spelling and grammar are excellent; no errors.	Spelling and grammar are good; 1 error.	Spelling and grammar are satisfactory; more than 2 errors.
Creativity	Visually appealing and incorporates creativity, unique background to complement theme.	Chart is somewhat appealing with a little creativity.	Chart is unappealing visually with no creativity.
Computations	All calculations are accurate, no errors.	Most calculations are accurate, 1 error.	Some calculations are accurate, more than 2 errors.
Overall	Final product exceeds expectations of learning goals.	Final product meets expectations of learning goals.	Final product does not meet expectations of learning goals.

Rubric for Higher Order Thinking Evaluation

	Level One	Level Two	Level Three
KNOWLEDGE	Limited amount of information is recalled; answer is incomplete	Sufficient amount of facts are recalled; answer is complete and acceptable	Numerous facts and details are recalled; answer is thorough
COMPREHENSION	Brief explanation of content; little or no evidence to support	Overall understanding of content; implied content/issues not addressed	An interrelated, holistic interpretation of literal and implied content given; uses examples and illustrations to support
APPLICATION	Solution has none or a limited number of elements to support; solution is not workable	Workable solution is supported by an adequate number of generalizations and principles	Solution has a "new slant"; supports solution with an abundant amount of facts and details
ANALYSIS	Solution shows minimal classification of elements; no relation between elements and their relation and structure to each other	Solution demonstrates the relation and structure between elements; recognizes patterns; rationally supported	Solution classifies elements, their relationship to each other while identifying the arrangement and structure connecting them in a rational and persuasive way
SYNTHESIS	Solution lacks self-expression; some important elements excluded; solution not workable; not clearly communicated	Workable solution is new and includes essential elements; adequately communicated solution to appropriate audience; demonstrates self-expression	Workable solution which is new and includes all parts; demonstrates unique self-expression; communication is directed to a specific audience in a unique and highly effective manner
EVALUATION	Judgments have little or no support	Judgments are on both cognitive and effective levels; based on given criteria or selected remembered criteria	Judgments are based on a variety of facets at both the cognitive and effective levels

Lesson 2 Student Instructions:

The goal of this lesson is for students to research vacation destinations based on their family's vacation interests, needs, and concerns and determine which ones fit their family's budget by creating a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel.

Students will:

- Learn how to develop a personal family travel budget.
- Research internet databases by entering specific search criteria.
- Use technology to present financial information.
- Make decisions based on information.

You will act as financial planners and research various vacation destinations using internet search engines to collect data and create a budget based on your family's interests and concerns.

The budget is for the student's family members who are looking for exciting discount summer vacations that fit their budget. You will present your findings in the form of an Excel spreadsheet which will be presented to the your family members and teacher.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.ustravel.org/news/press-kit/travel-facts-and-statistics>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/us>

<http://www.restaurantrow.com/>

<http://www.cruises.com>

<http://www.hotels.com>

<http://www.expedia.com>

Suggested videos:

[**Computer Help : How to Use Excel**](#)

You will meet with your family and discuss their vacation budget, needs, interests, and concerns.

Some critical thinking questions to be considered for group discussion are:

- How much does your family spend on summer vacations? What types of discounts are available?
- How has the general economy affected family vacation options?
- How have fuel prices affected family vacations costs and options?
- How has terrorism affected family vacation travel options?
- What is the crime rate in your destination? Are there any social problems?
- What travel documents are required?

- What type(s) of activities are of interest to children, teens, and parents?
- What types of places do families like to visit?

You will then record this information and begin to search internet databases in order to determine the best summer vacation for your family based on their needs and budget.

Each student will create a one page travel budget Excel with three vacation options for their families to consider using Microsoft Excel in order to determine the type(s) of vacation destinations and activities that are suitable for their target family's budget. The student must state the dollar amount of the family budget is at the top of the page beneath the title. The travel budget must include dollar amounts for airfare, hotel, car rental, meals, two tours and use the SUM function for each location. The tours and activities should be suitable for adults, young children and teenagers and the destinations selected must meet the family's budget. Special backgrounds and graphic to support and enhance the vacation theme are suggested.