

Time

45 mins-1 hour

Materials Needed

Scenario cards, discussion questions, group of 4-10 people, supermarket flyer, and pencil to calculate finances (or play money if available), fact sheet. (*see attachment*)

Objective

Experience, through a role play scenario, someone living with hunger.

Procedure

- One person acts as a facilitator explaining how the activity works, handing out scenario cards, choosing a banker, and leading the discussion.
- Explain that the group will be experiencing a bit of one week in the life of a person living with hunger. Each participant will be given a card to read aloud. Each group member will be either a banker, employer, bill collector, or the “head of the household”. The “banker” will keep a running tab of the bank account which s/he shares with the group after the reading of each card.
- The facilitator gives the group member willing to be the “banker” pencil & paper, and hands out the scenario cards to other group members. The “head of household” should receive card number 1. The “employer” should receive card number 2 and the paycheck. Remaining cards should be distributed to group members. The cards are numbered and should be read in that order (*see attachment*). As each card is read, the “banker” should make the appropriate calculations. Once the last card is read and the balance in the account shared, the facilitator explains that this is the amount the employee has to purchase food for their family that week. The group is given a supermarket flyer and asked to figure out what they would purchase with that sum to feed themselves and/or family for the week.
- Once “purchasing” is complete, discuss the following questions:
 - Was there enough money to feed yourself and/or your family?
 - Were you able to feed yourselves with nutritious foods? What was missing from your diet? How do you think this might affect the person/family after an extended time?
 - What do you imagine this person is thinking and feeling?
 - What might they do to get more food?
 - How do you think the mothers in scenarios 1 and 4 talk to their children about their hunger? Or the man to his wife in scenario 3?
 - What decisions do you think these people might make the following week when they might have to choose between medicine and food costs? Or feeding their children and perhaps going without themselves? Or paying for heat or food?
 - Could you imagine your next door neighbor or a family member in this position?
- After the discussion, hand out the fact sheet about hunger in Western Massachusetts. (*see attachment*)

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- Create a fund drive- see Set the Table- a fundraising activity or contact The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts for information & resources.
- Host a food drive i.e. peanut butter drive or canned tuna drive

Making Ends Meet

The Food Bank of Western
Massachusetts

MA DOE STANDARDS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Anchor Standards

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support the conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH

Nutrition

- 3.3 Recognize hunger and satiety cues and how to make decisions based upon these cues
- 3.7 Describe how food choices are influenced by availability, individual and family preferences, media, and background, and identify healthy foods within various social groups.

MATHEMATICS

Economics

- E.1.10 Formulate a savings or financial investment plan for a future goal
- E.6.1 Explain the basic function of money

Making Ends Meet

The Food Bank of Western
Massachusetts

In lieu of paper money, you can cut out the paper checks below and distribute to groups.

		Date: _____	3723A
Pay to the Order of	<u>Employee</u>		

	<u>Nine hundred no/100</u>	Dollars	\$ 900.00
For _____	<u>Joe Computer</u>		
000888000	000088888000	3723A	

		Date: _____	3723B
Pay to the Order of	<u>Landscaper</u>		

	<u>Five Hundred twenty and no/100</u>	Dollars	\$ 520.00
For _____	<u>Wayne Woods</u>		
000888000	000088888000	3723B	

		Date: _____	3723C
Pay to the Order of	<u>Teacher's Assistant</u>		

	<u>Three hundred ninety-five and no/100</u>	Dollars	\$ 395.00
For _____	<u>Luis Principal</u>		
000888000	000088888000	3723C	



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Making Ends Meet

The Food Bank of Western
Massachusetts

		Date: _____	3723D
Pay to the Order of	Veteran		

	Three hundred fifteen and no/100	Dollars	\$ 315.00

For _____			<i>Uncle Sam</i>

000888000	000088888000	3723D	



Scenario A facilitator notes:

(involves cards 1-9)

At the start of the game, hand the
employer \$900
5x100, 6x50, 3x20, 3x10, 2x5

\$45 available to buy food for your family
this week.

1.

I am a 29 yr. old single mother
with a 8 yr. old son and 3 year
old daughter.

2.

You work for a computer
programming company, and
earn a salary of \$900 a week.

Please hand player 1 a check or \$900 cash
5x100, 6x50, 3x20, 3x10, 2x5

3.

I'm Sally Giver, your
daughter's daycare provider.
You owe me \$200 for
childcare this week. It would
be good if you could pay me in
cash.

4.

Your heating oil installment is
due next week. Please set
aside \$75 for the Spring Oil
Company.

5.

Your son needs medicine for
his asthma inhaler. Please
pay the pharmacist \$30.



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts A



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts A



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts A



The Food Bank
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The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts A



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts A

6.

You owe the Electric Company \$50 for electricity. (You might want your son to cut down on all those video games he plays)

7.

The bill from Dr. Wellbeing for the health physicals and flu shots for your 2 children and yourself is due. That will cost you \$150.

8.

Sorry, you had a flat tire. You owe the service station, \$50 for the repair work.

9.

I'm your landlord. Your monthly rent is due this week. You owe me \$300.



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts

A



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts

A



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts

A



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts

A

Scenario B facilitator notes:

(involves cards 1-8)

At the start of the game, hand the employer \$520
3x100, 2x50, 3x20, 4x10, 4x5

This man will have \$15 left to buy food at the end of the week, for himself & his wife.

1.

I came to the U.S. 5 years ago and am now working for a landscaping company for \$8.50 an hour. My wife works as a housekeeper.

2.

Combined you and your wife make \$520 a week.

Please hand player 1 a check or \$520 cash
3x100, 2x50, 3x20, 4x10, 4x5

3.

The two of you are dependent on the car to get to work. The car payments and repair bill are costing you \$140 a week.

4.

Your favorite niece just got married and you bought her a \$50 gift.

5.

Your telephone bill and utilities are due at the end of the month. Put aside \$50 this week.



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts **B**



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts **B**



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts **B**



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts **B**



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts **B**



The Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts **B**

6.

You fell off a ladder at work and have no health insurance. The doctor bill came to \$120.

7.

Rent is due at the end of the month. Put aside \$100 this week to pay on time.

8.

Your mother can't afford prescriptions this month. Pay the pharmacy \$45.



Scenario C facilitator notes:

(involves cards 1-9)

At the start of the game, hand the
employer \$395
1x100, 3x50, 4x20, 4x10, 5x5

\$25 available to buy food for your family this
week.

1.

I am a 36 year old woman with
3 children. I have just been
hired as a teacher's assistant.

2.

Your new job pays \$12.50 an
hour. Your gross income for
the week is \$395.

Please hand player 1 a check or \$395 cash
1x100, 3x50, 4x20, 4x10, 5x5

3.

Your new salary disqualifies
you from the food stamps, fuel
assistance, & reduced
childcare you previously
received.

4.

You now have to pay full cost
for your youngest child to
receive childcare. That will
add up to \$130 for the week.

5.

The heating company is
demanding a \$60 payment on
the installment plan.



6.

Your children all need new shoes. The total cost is \$90.

7.

Luckily, it is the 2nd week of the month and you don't have to pay the \$450 rent bill.

8.

Your cell phone bill is due. Pay \$60 to AR&D before they interrupt your service.

9.

You need gas to get to work this week, pay \$30 at the pump



Scenario D facilitator notes:

(involves cards 1-6)

At the start of the game, hand the
employer \$315

1x100, 2x50, 3x20, 4x10, 3x5

\$20 available to buy food for the month

1.

I am a 40 year old Iraq war veteran. Due to an injury and limited job skills, I'm unable to find work.

2.

You applied to the Hampden County's General Assistance program and now receive cash assistance of \$315 per month.

Please pay payer 1 a check or \$315 cash
1x100, 2x50, 3x20, 4x10, 3x5

3.

Your medicine for the week costs \$25. Pay the pharmacy.

4.

You are staying 2 weeks a month at a single residence occupancy hotel. This costs \$230. (The rest of the month you are living on the streets.)

5.

You owe me \$35 for heating and electricity at the residence.

6.

You travel around on buses on bad weather days. This costs you \$5.

