

## The Economics of a Road Trip!

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**WebQuest Description:** A Webquest for high school mathematics, involving decision making in real world mathematical applications.

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Curriculum:** Math

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### Introduction

You are planning to take a road trip during the summer before college starts with some of your friends! You have your parents' blessings and they have even helped you financially get prepared for your trip to see your favorite band play in Detroit, Michigan! However, you must make some financial decisions so that you can fit every aspect of your trip in with your limited budget. And this WebQuest will help you plan how to successfully plan. Good luck!

### Tasks

- 1) You and your groupmates will design a road trip from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Detroit, Michigan. Your group will be responsible for completing a chart that has categories for gas, lodging, and concert ticket prices. The goal of this WebQuest is to be the group with the best estimate of your total expenses, while spending a low amount of money.
- 2) After submitting your group's estimate, you will then research current prices using maps, hotels, and attractions, all of which can be found on the Internet. Your team will complete a new chart of expenses, but unlike the estimates that you recorded in Part 1, this chart will be of actual prices that have been found through research.
- 3) The team with the best estimate and least errors in data will win a prize!

### Process

1. Students will create a spreadsheet, with categories for travel expenses, lodging, and concert tickets.
2. Students will research their options, using a limited budget of \$1000, to come up with their favorite choice for using these expenses. (Cheap concert tickets = \$150 total, Expensive concert tickets = \$300 total). (Cheap hotel = \$400 total, Expensive Hotel = \$600 total).
3. Teams will decide on their choice of options, and record all data accurately. Choices must be explained! Research must be cited!

### Evaluation

Below Average  
10

Satisfactory  
20

Proficient  
30

Outstanding  
40

Score

#### Teamwork

Team members did not complete their individual duties.  
Some working together was seen.  
Teammates worked fairly well together.  
Teammates worked extremely well together.

#### Presentation

Spreadsheet is non-existent. It is obvious that very little time was spent on this project.  
Spreadsheet is difficult to follow.  
Spreadsheet is easy to follow but there are a few errors in flow.  
Spreadsheet is neat and easy to follow.

#### Mathematical Soundness

Spreadsheet has many errors. Steps are difficult to follow.  
Spreadsheet is typified by a few errors in mathematical concepts. I had a difficult time following the steps.  
Spreadsheet is typified by a few careless mathematical errors or oversights. I had little trouble following the steps.

Spreadsheet is typified by almost no mathematical errors.

#### Overall Content

Poor/ Non-existent finished project.  
Project needs improvement.  
Project is completed with few errors.  
Project is professionally completed.

Category and Score					Score
				Total Score	

## Conclusion

Now that you have planned a trip from Pittsburgh to Detroit, you should feel fairly comfortable about planning trips and with estimating data. You had to account for gas and travel expenses, food, and concert tickets. Did you bring any extra cash with you for car repairs, souvenirs, or just money for any emergency? You will receive bonus points if you did!

## Teacher Page

We all benefit by being generous with our work. I hereby grant permission for other educators to use the resources from this page. Good luck implementing similar WebQuests in your own classrooms!

## Reviews

## Footer

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