

Teacher: Henry Couch
 Title: Slave or Indentured Servant?

FLVS Course: Economics 6.02 “What are externalities” Enrichment lesson

Topic: Externalities or Unintended Consequences

Grade level: 9-12

FLVS Turning Points Grant Lesson/ Activity/Content	
Summary: <i>(A short 3-5 sentence summary of the Activity and how it will be delivered)</i>	This enrichment assignment examines the impact of externalities on the decision of Colonial farmers to use slaves or indentured servants. It can be used to enrich students understanding of Lesson 6.02 in the Economics course.
National Standards for History Era: Link	Era 2-Standard 2
State Standard(s): Link to SSS Link to Next Gen SSS	SS.912.A.1.6: Use case studies to explore social, political, legal, and economic relationships in history.
Themes/Concept:	Understanding externalities and their impact on history
Essential questions (2-5 questions) <i>(What you want the students to know)</i>	What are externalities? Which is better for a colonial farmer to use from an economic standpoint: a slave or an indentured servant?
Learning Goal(s): <i>(What you want students to understand)</i>	Students will understand that almost all economic decisions can result in externalities.
Launch Activity (Hook)	
Knowledge & Skills <i>(People, Places, times and vocabulary-what the student should be able to do. What skills will they use?)</i>	Terms: Indentured servant, externalities, third parties,
Lesson <i>(The lesson itself; Procedure)</i> Background: When you make a choice, your actions can have effects on people you do not even know. In Economics, these are called third-party unintended consequences, or externalities. “Third-party,” or “third parties,” describes people who did not make the initial choice that created the externality. Externalities may be positive or negative depending on how they affect other people. Externalities cause inefficiency because you cannot calculate all the costs and benefits of an action. For example, if a factory dumps waste into water, the people living downstream who use	

the water could get sick and lawyers might sue the government to pay for health treatment. The government may order the factory owner to clean up the sewage and implement an alternative disposal system. During this time, the factory gets a bad reputation in the media. Due to the criticism, sales decrease and the factory owner lays off workers. The factory probably did not consider all these possible consequences when the owner ordered the dumping in the first place.

Now you will examine a historical Case Study related to Externalities:

During the 1700's in Colonial Virginia, tobacco farming was the primary cash crop. It was a labor intensive crop that took 13 months from seed to harvest. Planters needed a work force to care for this product until it could be shipped out to Europe. Labor came from two options - indentured servants and slaves. An indentured servant usually served for 7 years while the average work life for a slave was 21 years. Both groups had approximately a 50% mortality rate (only half survived their term of service).

Assignment: Write an essay discussing the economic reasons for a planter to employ slaves or indentured servants. Then give a detailed explanation of the externalities of both forms of labor. Finally, which method of labor would you recommend to the planters and why? Include the challenges to implementing each solution.

Assessment Evidence: *What evidence will show that students met the learning goal?*

Students at the end of the lesson should be able to show in their submission an understanding of both the economic and social impact of slavery on the development of colonial society.

Resources and instructional tools: *(Including Video Sources, Text Resources, Research Strategy)*

Students would use instructional material provided in Lesson 6.02 of the Economics course and material included in the lesson.