

Choice Development



What is Responsible Decision-Making?

It's making smart, safe, and respectful choices by thinking about the consequences for yourself and others.

Responsible Decision-Making
High School



Match each neural structure/system with its role in decision-making:

Neural Structure/System

Prefrontal Cortex

Limbic System

Ventral Striatum

Default Mode Network

Anterior Cingulate Cortex

Role in Decision-Making

(A) Processes emotional responses and tags experiences with affective significance

(B) Monitors conflicts between competing options and signals the need for control

(C) Processes rewards and motivates approach behaviors

(D) Executive function center responsible for planning, judgment, and impulse control

(E) Engages in self-referential thinking and mental simulation of future scenarios

How does understanding these neural structures/systems help explain common decision-making challenges?

Cognitive Biases



Our judgment is affected by systematic cognitive biases. Identify examples of these biases in your own decision-making:

Cognitive Bias	Definition	Personal Example
Confirmation Bias		
Sunk Cost Fallacy		
Availability Heuristic		
Optimism Bias		
Loss Aversion		
Anchoring Effect		
Bandwagon Effect		

Advanced Decision Analysis



For decisions with multiple outcomes, decision trees help map possibilities.
Create a simple decision tree for this scenario:

Scenario: You're considering whether to take an advanced placement course next year.

How does mapping out contingencies and probabilities change your perspective on this decision?

Ethical Decision Making



Different ethical perspectives provide various lenses for evaluating decisions. Apply these frameworks to an ethical dilemma:

Ethical Dilemma:

You discover a close friend has been sharing confidential information about another friend behind their back.

Ethical Framework	Core Question
Consequentialism	What action produces the best overall consequences?
Deontology	What action fulfills my duties and respects others' rights?
Virtue Ethics	What would a person of good character do in this situation?
Care Ethics	What maintains important relationships and shows care?
Justice Ethics	What treats all parties fairly and equitably?

After analyzing the dilemma through these frameworks, what would you decide and why?

1/23 Our personal and cultural values inform our ethical decisions. Rank your top five values from the list below (1=highest priority):


Honesty/Integrity _____ Loyalty _____ Personal Achievement _____

Social Justice _____ Compassion/Care _____ Independence/Autonomy _____

Responsibility/Duty _____ Knowledge/Wisdom _____ Fairness/Equity _____

Tradition/Respect for customs _____ Innovation/Progress _____ Other _____

Risk Assessment & Management

 Effective decision-makers systematically evaluate risks. Apply this framework to an important decision:

Decision involving risk:

Potential Risk	Probability (Low/Med/High)	Impact (Low/Med/High)	Mitigation Strategy

How does your risk tolerance (preference for avoiding or accepting risk) affect your approach to this decision?



Create a comprehensive plan to enhance your decision-making effectiveness:

What are your top 3 decision strengths?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

List 3 ways you'd like to improve your decision-making:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

How improving these areas would benefit my: Academic/career trajectory:

What are some resources you can use to Improve in these areas?

How will you evaluate your progress?
