

## Task: Hidden Costs of Employment (Scenarios)

### Directions:

Your teacher will assign one of the scenarios below. How many hidden costs can you find in the employment scenario? Be prepared to report your list to the whole class.

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**1.** Keisha has been able to get a job in the music section of a local bookstore. She is able to catch a public bus to get to work after school and then carpools with a friend who takes her home. Since she works right after school, it's hard for her to pack a lunch and a dinner so she usually buys dinner at a fast food place near the bookstore during her work break. She has control over what she wears for work as long as she wears a collared shirt and doesn't wear jeans or shorts. Keisha gets a 20 percent discount on all books and music in the store, so she is constantly adding new items to her extensive collection. She loves her job, especially since she learns about all of the new music releases before her friends.

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**2.** Jeremy's babysitting business has really started to grow. His high school's early childhood education program gives him a lot of ideas for crafts and educational games he can use with the kids he cares for. The parents love that he helps the children increase their academic skills rather than just watch videos when he is there. Jeremy also makes sure that his CPR and First Aid certifications are up to date. He thinks the real reason for the increase in business is the new website he set up to advertise his skills and to help schedule work opportunities—a bargain for only \$10 a month. Sometimes his babysitting jobs run late on school nights, but it's well worth it for the money he's making!

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**3.** Fatima and David have teamed up to start a landscaping business. Fatima was able to buy a used truck from her uncle to pull all of their lawn equipment. David is pretty handy with small motors and is able to make most of their repairs as long as he uses the right mix of oil and gasoline in the engines. To save money, they buy their equipment used. Fatima has even been able to use her home computer and printer to create business cards that help spread the word about their business to new customers. They have been able to get a few regular jobs for business clients, and they charge a slightly higher rate for business clients than for their homeowner customers. When winter comes, Fatima and David are still in business, shoveling snow and clearing sidewalks.

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**4.** Sakura feels really lucky to have landed this job at an expensive restaurant. Since her shifts are usually on evenings and weekends, she can use her mom's car to get to and from work. She looks great in the required uniform—the jacket is provided for her but she's responsible for her own black slacks and white blouse. (She has learned that she needs at least three sets of each as they need to be cleaned after each shift.) She's on her feet for up to six hours at a time so Sakura has invested in a pair of orthopedic shoes that still meet the restaurant's dress code. She's also smart enough to take some of the great tip money she's earning to invest back into herself by taking a health and sanitation course at a local community college—this will help her get a certificate that could increase her wages. Sakura also thinks this is a good investment because she is seriously considering turning this into a career down the road.