

The Training Tradeoff

Identify what job training can cost in money, time, and effort.

SS.8.FL.1.6 "Identify the opportunity costs that education, training, and development of job skills have in the terms of time, effort, and money."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that tells what Jalen gives up for EMT training. Write M for money, T for time, or E for effort beside each underlined phrase.

Jalen's EMT Choice

- ① Jalen wants to become an emergency medical technician, or EMT, after high school. He enrolls in a six-month evening certification program at a community college. Classes meet three nights each week, and students also practice skills on some Saturdays. Jalen chooses the program because it could qualify him for entry-level EMT jobs. His choice has benefits, but it also has opportunity costs. Opportunity cost means the value of the next best choice a person gives up when making a decision.
- ② To attend, Jalen pays \$900 for tuition, books, and required supplies. That money cannot be used for a used laptop he had hoped to buy. On class nights, he turns down extra hours at his grocery-store job, so he gives up wages and time with friends. He also spends Saturdays studying medical terms and practicing patient-care steps. The work is demanding, so he gives up some rest and uses energy that could have gone toward sports or other activities.
- ③ Jalen considers skipping the program and working more hours instead. Working more would give him income now, but it would not provide the same EMT training or credential. He decides the possible career benefit is worth the costs. His decision does not mean that training is free. It means he has compared what he expects to gain with the money, time, and effort he must give up. Different students might choose differently because their goals and resources are not the same.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is one money-related opportunity cost of Jalen's EMT program?

2 Name two time-related opportunity costs Jalen faces because of the program.

3 What effort-related opportunity cost does Jalen experience?

4 Why does Jalen decide that the training is worth its opportunity costs?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a job skill or training program you might consider. Write four to five sentences that name one opportunity cost in money, one in time, and one in effort, and explain one benefit that could make the choice worthwhile.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that tells what Jalen gives up for EMT training. Write M for money, T for time, or E for effort beside each underlined phrase. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one money-related opportunity cost of Jalen's EMT program?	He uses \$900 for tuition, books, and supplies instead of buying the used laptop he wanted.
2	Name two time-related opportunity costs Jalen faces because of the program.	He gives up extra hours and wages at his grocery-store job, and he gives up time with friends. He also spends Saturdays studying and practicing instead of doing sports or other activities.
3	What effort-related opportunity cost does Jalen experience?	He gives up some rest and uses energy for demanding study and practice instead of sports or other activities.
4	Why does Jalen decide that the training is worth its opportunity costs?	He believes the training and credential could lead to entry-level EMT jobs and career benefits, even though he gives up money, time, and effort.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I could take a weekend coding course. Its money opportunity cost would be using \$120 for the course instead of saving it for a bicycle. Its time opportunity cost would be missing Saturday afternoons with friends. Its effort opportunity cost would be using energy to complete projects instead of relaxing, but the course could help me qualify for a technology job later.

Accept equivalent examples that correctly connect training to a forgone use of money, time, or effort. For Part 3, accept realistic choices and benefits if all three opportunity-cost categories are clearly addressed.