Liza Wishard

Junior or Senior High Math Lesson:

Our school district just received a million dollar grant to address and prevent substance abuse issues.  According to the grant, the money can be spent on anything from direct programs for people with substance abuse issues to creating social activities (like picnics or extracurriculars) that provide students with a healthy environment.

Objective:

Each student will demonstrate their awareness of the above grant program by writing a proposal for utilizing a portion of the funds.  The students will research alternatives to develop unique and pertinent activities or programs.  The students will include estimates for effort, required supplies/resources, and costs, identifying at least 80% of the factors involved in executing their idea.

Procedure:

1. We will discuss the new grant moneys available and the purpose of the funds.
2. As a class, we will discuss existing issues that students face, putting them at risk for substance abuse.  For example, the following:
   1. Lack of participation in school activities resulting in non-productive time (Note:  cost of these activities and lack of transportation to/from is a big issue for many in the school)
   2. Lack of culturally relevant activities
   3. Lack of resources for and information on substance abuse
3. The students will be asked to each develop an activity, program, or service that could address a potential risk.
4. The students will research their ideas, identify and estimate the costs/effort involved, and write a proposal for their idea.
5. Extension:  For advanced or older students, include a more complete cost/benefit analysis of their project.

Assessment:

The students will be assessed on their proposal utilizing the following breakdown:

50%  Grant idea supported by research of issue being addressed and description of idea

50%  Quality and thoroughness of estimating factors for implementing the idea