

THE COMMONS DILEMMA EXERCISE

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Beginning with the next class period, each of you will be making a choice every week for the next eight weeks either to COOPERATE or to COMPETE. Thus, you will be making eight choices over the next eight weeks.
2. If you choose to COOPERATE, your score for that week will be 25 points *lower* than the score of those who COMPETE.

If you choose to COMPETE, your score for that week will be 25 points *higher* than the score of those who COOPERATE.
3. The formulas for determining your score for each given choice are shown below.
4. Your *overall score* for this exercise will be the average of your 6 highest individual choice scores. If you miss a class session in which the exercise takes place, your Commons Dilemma score for that session is *zero*.
5. At the conclusion of the 8 choices – the end of the exercise – you will be assigned a grade based on your overall score (see the grade scale below).
6. If you wish, you may substitute your *overall score* on the exercise for one of your individual assignments. In other words, you may choose *not to use* one of the evaluations of the individual assignments, and use your Commons Dilemma grade instead.

Formulas used each time to compute individual Commons Dilemma scores:

$$\text{Cooperators' score:} \quad 89 \times \frac{\# \text{ of cooperators}}{\# \text{ of participants}}$$

$$\text{Competitors' score:} \quad \text{cooperators' score} + 25$$

Scale used at end of the exercise for determining your Commons Dilemma grade:

> 19.2	96 and above	14-14.8	70-74
18-19	90-95	13-13.8	65-69
17-17.8	85-89	12-12.8	60-64
16-16.8	80-84	11-11.8	55-59
15-15.8	75-79	0-10.8	0-54

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SAMPLE OUTCOMES FOR A CLASS OF 20 STUDENTS

(using formula on last page)

	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
# Cooperating: # Competing:	20	89.0	17.8
	0	—	—
	19	84.6	16.9
	1	109.6	20
	18	80.1	16
	2	105.1	20
	17	75.7	15.1
	3	100.7	20

calculations for 16 through 4 cooperators omitted

	3	13.4	2.7
	17	38.4	7.7
	2	8.9	1.8
	18	33.9	6.8
	1	4.5	0.9
	19	29.5	5.9
	0	—	—
	20	25.0	5

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DECISION FORM

YOUR NAME AND NUMBER: _____

DECISION NUMBER: _____

YOUR CHOICE (check one):

_____ I will compete this week and receive **25** points more than the cooperators.

_____ I will cooperate this week and receive **25** points less than the competitors.

COMMENTS (optional):