

# Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

## Bean Game Budgeting Exercise

### Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

This game is designed to help students with budgeting. Students are given a certain number of beans (or beads) that represent money. There are various expenditure categories on which to spend the beans, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, etc. Students then must allot (or spend) their beans on the things that are most important to them and they must ensure that they have enough beans for these things.

After students spend their beans, the instructor leads a large group discussion in which the class talks about differences in how people allotted their beans. The instructor also asks students to consider how things would change if they had fewer beans or more beans. The class talks about how students made connections between the game and their real life budgets. They also talk about poverty in their local community. This activity is designed to be an introduction to a larger discussion on banking and budgeting.

Resource link:

<https://wvde.state.wv.us/counselors/links/students/documents/Lesson11.30BudgetGameHandout1.pdf>