

Practice Activity for Facilitation Training

“The Price is Wrong!” Welfare Game

AIM

To facilitate an activity that demonstrates the structural causes of poverty, in particular, the relationship between welfare rates and the cost of living.

Supplies

- Foam boards
- 10 red and 10 blue square pieces

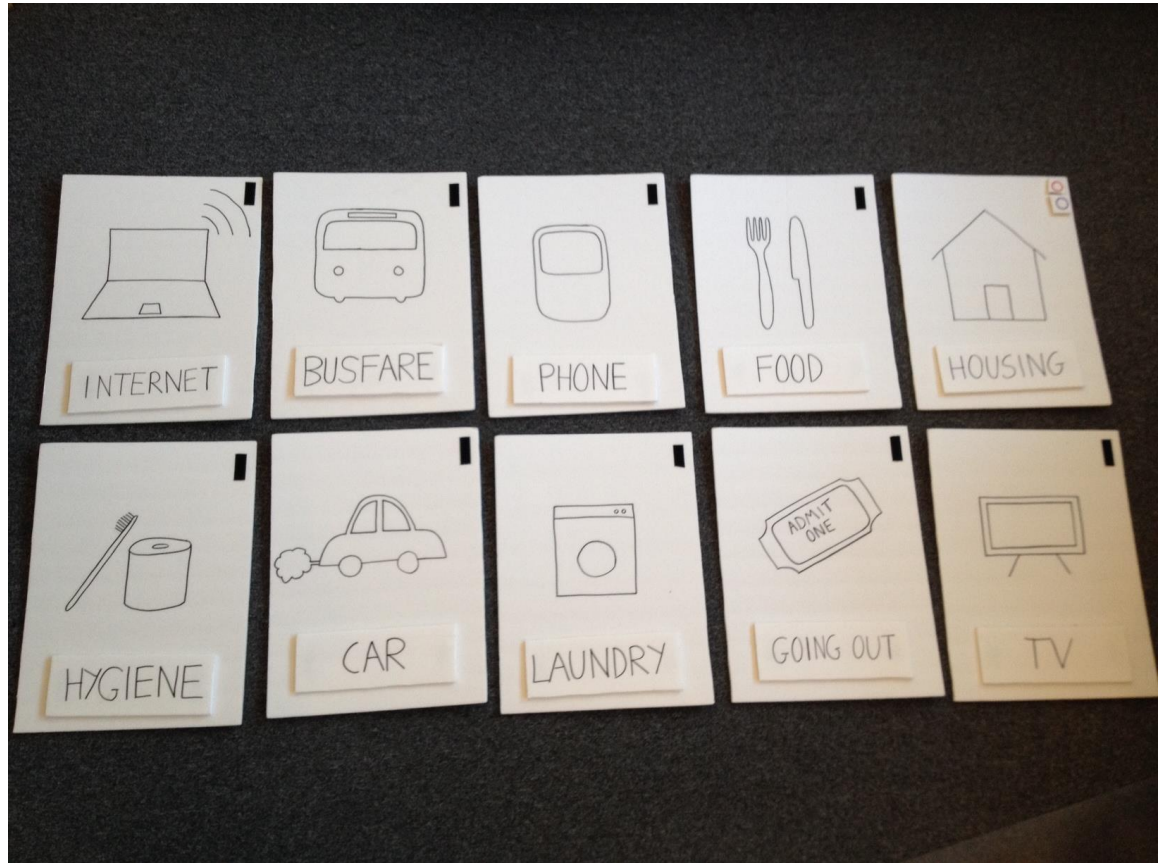
Instructions:

1. You will have 10 foam boards that each represent the costs below.

Category	Price ¹
Housing	687
Food	290
Phone	25
Bus fare	28
Internet	47
Hygiene	10
Car	450
Laundry	10
Going Out	40
TV	35

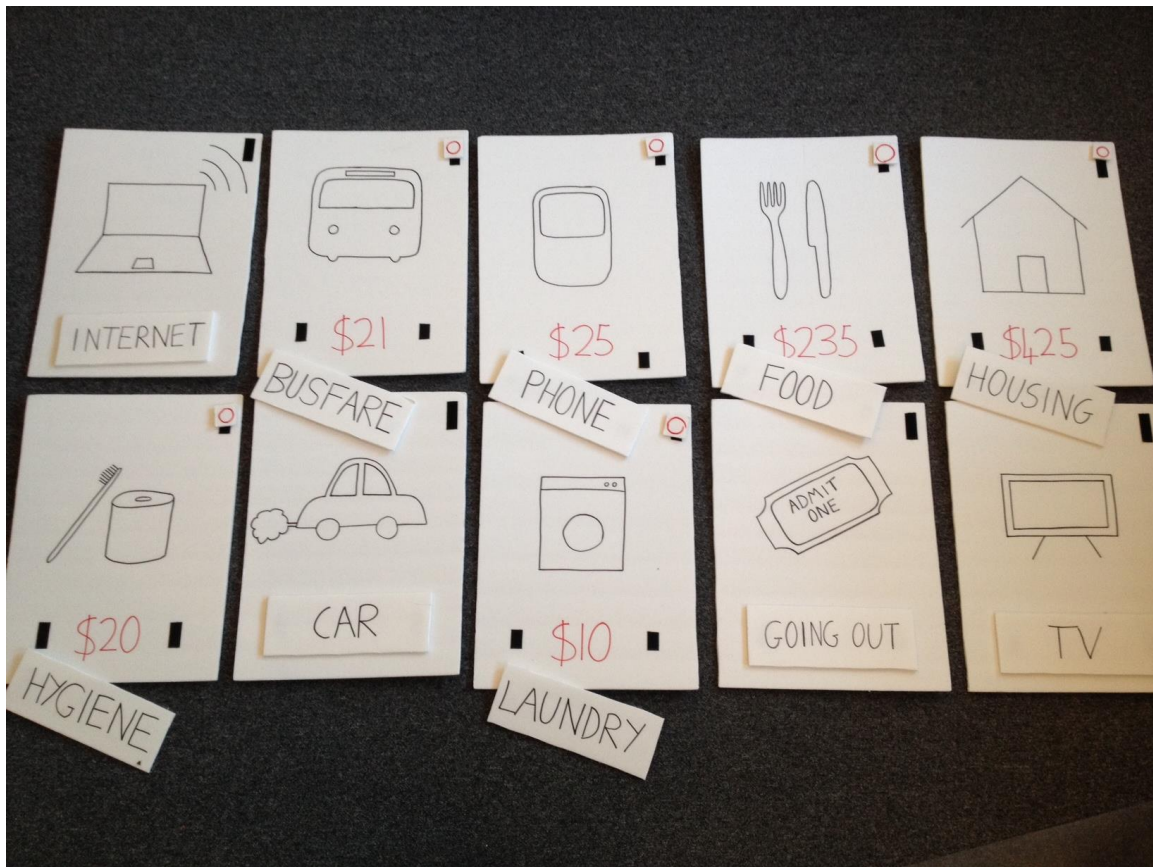
¹ Explanation of some of these prices from the Carnegie Community Action Project Hotel Report, Welfare Food Challenges, Living Wage for Families calculations; Statistic Canada, and Cost of Food BC 2017 Report

They should look something like this:



2. The price is written underneath each heading and the heading is attached to the board with Velcro.
3. You will also have 20 small square pieces with Velcro on one side and a coloured circle on the other, e.g 10 red circle pieces and 10 blue circle pieces (see top right hand corner of the picture above)
4. Ask 4-6 students to volunteer and divide them into two teams and give them their 10 red circle pieces. One team gets 10 blue ones and the other team gets 10 red ones.
5. Tell each team that they are on income assistance (“welfare”), and ask them to decide what they need to live for one month and place their pieces on the Velcro patch in the right hand corner (remind them that they have to look for work while on welfare).

- Starting with the team that has chosen the most items, reveal the costs and add them up to a total monthly amount. Tell them that welfare is only \$710 a month and that they have been unsuccessful in living within their means.



- Do the same with the other team if necessary.
- Discuss the inadequacy of welfare rates in providing a social safety net for people to get back on their feet.