

**Economic Decision Journal Entry**  
**Sample #1**  
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[NOTE: The following is a sample of what I'd like to see in your "Economic Decision Journal."]

**Topic:** Choosing places to shop.

Today, I needed to purchase some grocery items to replenish what had been used during the recent days. Since our home town (Podunk Creek) does not have a store that sells the items I needed, I had two choices: either drive to Center City or Cottonwood. I made the decision to drive to Center City.

**Analysis:** Because Cottonwood is a little closer to my home than Center City (by maybe 5-10 miles) I would normally go there to make those purchases. (There are not enough differences in prices to make me choose one over the other, so the decision is usually based on mileage.) The reason I chose to make the longer trip today was because of the road construction on the downtown streets of Cottonwood. The roadway is rough and the construction equipment tends to throw dirt and gravel around, often hitting my truck. In many places, the center left turn lane is used for through-traffic, and that often makes for long back-ups when a driver in front of me has to wait for a while to turn left. The placement of the orange cones and barrels is often confusing, and drivers have difficulty knowing exactly where they should be driving. The traffic control signals are often ignored, or workers usher us through red lights, causing major congestion on the side streets, as drivers are waiting to enter the highway.

When the resurfacing is completed, the streets will then be much better than they were, and the traffic flows will be able to resume their normal patterns. At that time, I will choose to return to Cottonwood for my shopping.

The road construction cost the businesses in Cottonwood my money for this trip.