

The goal of the Youth Entrepreneurs classroom is to allow students to learn by doing. We want students to learn from the experience. Much of learning is as simple as not forgetting. Think of The Codec as a simple graphic organizer to help you not forget.

The Codec can help you and students remember all the important points from any activity, simulation, field trip, etc. It also has the added function of connecting those experiences directly to the Foundational Values and Economic Principles of the Youth Entrepreneurs curriculum.

The name codec may be new to you, but the pedagogy is probably not. Codec is a term borrowed from the information technology industry. It refers to a way to take a lot of data, compress it down into a smaller, more portable state so it can be more easily moved around a network. Once it gets to its destination, the codec helps to decompress it and put it all back in its proper position.

For YE purposes, think of The Codec as a way to make sure the 8 YE Foundational Values and the 10 Economic Principles in the YE curriculum are the constant focus. Again, The Codec is just a basic graphic organizer and graphic organizers are everywhere.

5 WAYS YOU CAN USE THE CODEC

- > 1. When preparing for an activity, choose which of the 8 FVs and/or 10 EPs you want to focus on. Use The Codec to make your notes for how you plan to tie the lesson to your chosen values and principles. This will help you to stay focused when connecting the activity to the values and principles during debrief and discussion.
- > 2. When preparing to teach and setting goals for the entire classroom experience, make notes/bullet points of the most important subtopics for each of the values and principles. Your notes don't have to be very detailed, but using The Codec in this way gives you a starting point you can refer back to (and change/adapt) as you move through the experience. This will assist you in keeping your over-arching learning goals in mind as you plan and carry out the curriculum.
- > 3. Have students use The Codec as a tool for reflection after any activity, lesson, experience, etc. Ask students to pick one or more of the values and principles and write their observations in the boxes. These can be shared with you, their peers, or added to class notes. The idea is that students get to choose which of the values and principles to reflect on and The Codec gives them an organized place to put their thoughts.
 - **ProTip:** You can incentivize students by agreeing to pay them 1 YE dollar for every value or principle they reflect on. This will make your classroom economy more valuable and helps reinforce the idea that you value their thoughts.
- > 4. During Market Day planning, The Codec can be an easy goal setting tool. Ask teams to complete each of the Foundational Values by answering the question, "How are we going to [insert Foundational Value] at Market Day?" For example, "How are we going to gain knowledge at Market Day?" Or "How are we going to be principled during (and after) Market Day?" For the 10 Economic Principles, "What will we do if we don't sell all of our products/services at Market Day?" Or, "How do we plan to compete when another Market Day team is selling something similar to ours?"

