

**Overview: What is a budget?**

**Main topic: Managing cash flow through budgets – money coming in and money going out – how to keep more of it!**

**Writing opportunity: Do you have a handle on your cash flow or do you just spend money without knowing where it goes?**

Please email student writing and photos for consideration on the Friday financial “your space” so they can share their thoughts and get others involved in financial literacy.

Each Friday except Friday 11/23, 12/28, 1/18, 3/21, and 4/18 you will receive newspapers from Erie Times-Newspaper in Education program paid for by our sponsors (see below)

Friday newspaper includes weekly financial literacy topics and weekly activities, your space for student writing, a S<sup>3</sup> trivia bonus question and newspaper activities to help students make the connections to the real world by using the newspaper as their resource.

See below for this week and for more resources.

### **Activity of week:**

Analyze an imaginary budget and become familiar with budget items, fixed and variable expenses and how to reduce variable expenses by making better choices.

### **Newspaper Activity :**

13. One way to save money is to spend less on purchases.
  - From the newspaper, make a list of purchases you plan or may consider making in the near future.
  - Which of the items on your list are not time-sensitive, and which do you need (not want) immediately?
  - Read newspaper reviews of products you want to buy. If they are not in current newspapers, check online archives for previous reviews.
  - Consider whether the model or version you want is the best value. Read about all of the features. Are you paying for features that you will never need or use? Will a simpler, more economical version serve as well?
  - Look for each of the items in display ads for at least a week, including a weekend (when new sales often begin).
  - Determine how much money you can save over the regular (not Manufacturer’s Suggested Retail) price.
  - Check classified ads. Is someone selling what you need? Never used? Excellent condition? Also consider whether you need the warrantee for a new product.

14. Look for newspaper coupons for groceries (soda, snacks) that you would normally buy. Keep track of how much you save by using coupons. (Remember, no matter how good the coupon, if you buy something that you don't really want or need, you are spending money above what you normally would.)
15. What about recreation? Look at the **entertainment** section of your newspaper.
- Do any theaters offer discount or freebies through a loyalty program (E.g., Buy three, get one free.)?
  - Can you save money by ordering tickets online?
  - Where and when does your newspaper publish news about bargains or exceptional values? Once again, you are only saving money if you would have made a purchase anyway. No matter how good the deal, if you won't use it, don't buy it.

**Budget: Don't Go Broke! continued**

**WEEKLY QUIZ Question:** Visit [www.cccr.psu.edu](http://www.cccr.psu.edu) to play the S<sup>3</sup> Online Game - Save•Spend•Succeed. Your students can use the online game to practice for the Live S<sup>3</sup> Game Show available from JA and Penn State Behrend. Two teams will compete for prizes at Penn State Behrend during the year. They will be treated to lunch and will be given a tour of the college. Stay tuned for **November 9<sup>th</sup>**

The tax form that summarizes annual earnings and taxes withheld from your paycheck and is used to file your income taxes is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. W-0
- B. W-1
- C. **W-2**
- D. W-4

Responses:

A: Incorrect. A W-0 form is not used in the tax system.

B: Incorrect. A W-1 form is not used in the tax system.

C: Correct! A W-2 form is sent by your employer and shows your earnings for the previous year and the amount of taxes withheld for that year. This summary is then used to file your taxes each year.

D: Incorrect. A W-4 is the form you fill out when you start a job to tell your employer how much to withhold from your paycheck in taxes. This is done by selecting a number of allowances, and students usually choose 0 or 1 allowances.

## **PRESENT**

### **Partner WEBSITES for more information**

[www.erie.ja.org](http://www.erie.ja.org)

[www.cccr.psu.edu](http://www.cccr.psu.edu)

[www.riefcu.org](http://www.riefcu.org)

[www.unitedwayerie.org](http://www.unitedwayerie.org)

### **Financial Literacy Website Resources**

NEFE – National Endowment for Financial Education

<http://hsfpp.nefe.org/home/>

<http://www.nefe.org/pages/educational.html>

[www.smartaboutmoney.org](http://www.smartaboutmoney.org)

<http://www.smartaboutmoney.org/nefe/pages/content.asp?page=1730#Top>

<http://www.cooperativalatina.org/education/curriculum.htm>

NEFE – Teen Resource Bureau Website

<http://www.ntrbonline.org/>

The Jump Start Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy

<http://www.jumpstart.org/>

Money Instructor

<http://www.moneyinstructor.com/>

<http://www.moneyinstructor.com/checks.asp>

Financial Literacy in a Box

[http://www.mcul.org/Financial\\_Literacy\\_In\\_A\\_Box\\_658.html](http://www.mcul.org/Financial_Literacy_In_A_Box_658.html)

Pennsylvania Office of Financial Education – Pennsylvania Department of Banking

<http://www.moneysbestfriend.com/>

CUNA – Credit Union National Association

<http://www.creditunion.coop/>

<http://www.precision-info.com/quiz/quiz.cgi?c=1056147613&t=coop>

Thrive By Five - [http://www.creditunion.coop/pre\\_k/](http://www.creditunion.coop/pre_k/)

NCUA – National Credit Union Administration

<http://www.mymoney.gov/>

Money Matters

<http://www.smartcredittips.com/>

National Youth Involvement Board

<http://www.nyib.org>

[www.eriefcu.org](http://www.eriefcu.org)

Treasure Club Kid's Account - <http://www.eriefcu.org/savings/treasure-club/>

CU Succeed – For Teens 13 – 18 <http://www.eriefcu.org/savings/financial-literacy/>

Scholarships for college students - <http://www.eriefcu.org/loans/student-loans/>

“Guides to Independence” Online Interactive Educational Teen Program

<http://www.eriefcu.org/savings/financial-literacy/>