

Main topic: Cost/benefit analysis

Writing opportunity: Do you know if you are getting the best deal? Or do you just spend money without determining whether you are getting your money's worth? 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 S³ 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:

Do a cost/benefit analysis

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.

WEEKLY QUIZ Question: Visit www.cccr.psu.edu to play the S³ Online Game - Save•Spend•Succeed. Your students can use the online game to practice for the Live S³ 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 f

Why should your budget include an amount set aside for personal savings?

- A. Employers require employees to do this
- B. It will not be possible to pay bills without savings
- C. Budgets are not complete without an amount set aside for savings
- D. It is the best way to achieve personal savings goals

Responses:

- A. Incorrect. Although it is smart to set aside money for personal savings, it is not required by employers.
- B. Incorrect. It is possible to pay bills without savings; however, if money is not set aside in the beginning for savings, there may be nothing left. Think of this money as another bill that must be paid, and you will most likely achieve your savings goals.
- C. Incorrect. Budgets can be complete without an amount set aside for savings; however, you may never reach your financial goals without setting aside this money.
- D. Correct! The best way to achieve your personal savings goals is to set aside money in your budget before you make other purchases. Think of this savings as another "bill" you must pay, even though the bill is paid to yourself!

INVEST in your future is sponsored by Junior Achievement of Erie, Penn State Behrend, Sam and Irene Black School of Business Center for Credit and Consumer Research, the Erie Federal Credit Union and United Way of Erie County

Partner WEBSITES for more information

www.erie.ja.org
www.cccr.psu.edu

www.riefcu.org
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/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

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/

NCUA – National Credit Union Administration

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

Money Matters

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

National Youth Involvement Board

<http://www.nyib.org>

www.riefcu.org

Treasure Club Kid's Account - <http://www.riefcu.org/savings/treasure-club/>
CU Succeed – For Teens 13 – 18 <http://www.riefcu.org/savings/financial-literacy/>
Scholarships for college students - <http://www.riefcu.org/loans/student-loans/>
“Guides to Independence” Online Interactive Educational Teen Program
<http://www.riefcu.org/savings/financial-literacy/>