

Personal Finance

Life Planning Project

Throughout this class we will be discussing many topics which deserve a closer look. As Juniors and Seniors, you will be experiencing a whole new world after high school graduation. Some of you will enter the work force immediately, the military, or enroll in a technical college, or a four year college. Some of you will marry relatively early in life and begin families. Others may never get married. Whatever path you choose, you will encounter many new turns, new waysides, and a hazardous curve now and then. It is my hope that through this project you will become more informed and aware consumers.

The following list contains topic ideas that should be of interest to you. You should at least be able to find one topic in which you would like to conduct further research. Only one topic is allowed per student per class . . . once a topic is taken NO REPEATS WITHIN THE SAME CLASS!

- Costs of having and raising children
- Costs of childcare and options available: at home vs childcare centers vs corporate daycare
- Costs of college education/how to plan for college and what to look for when seeing a college
- Cost of an average wedding in Oshkosh – include reception options and costs, include all expenses – show planning sites online, etc.
- Cost of destination wedding – must share several locations and all costs (ex: Mexico, Hawaii, Las Vegas, popular destinations)
- Personal bankruptcy – process and what it is/how affects a person’s life
- Costs of using credit – types available
- Costs of leasing an apartment, the “how to’s” – what to look for, costs in Oshkosh of various apartment options and what do you get for the money.
- Costs and “how to’s” of buying a house
- Purchasing a car, new vs. used, what to look for, how to finance
- Costs and how to purchase car insurance, different rates for different cars/your age
- Costs of/how to/what to look for when purchasing health insurance
- Costs of funerals and dying, planning for death
- Specific investment options to investigate and explain – stock market, mutual funds, CD’s, bonds
- Costs of living in a retirement home – process of getting in a nursing home, eldercare
- Long term health insurance – is it necessary/how does it work?
- The process of divorce, what’s involved, fees, and costs
- Developing a living will or trust – what is it and how is it done
- Buying rentals as an investment
- Career choices vs future earnings – what careers pay what? Career trends?
- Taxes, how much will you pay? Types: property taxes, various state income taxes, sales taxes, tax evasion, etc
- Budgeting and spending plans/methods – specific ideas from various financial experts
- Gambling – risks vs rewards, pitfalls, dangers, addictions, facts and figures revealed
- Social Security – how does it work? Will it be there for me? When will it run out? Plans to fix?
- 401K investment plans – how does it work? History, how did it get started, ins and outs
- Compare a Roth IRA vs Traditional IRA plan, what are the differences? How did it get started?
- Compare Bond investments – I Bonds, EE Bonds, H Bonds, what are bonds?

- Compare the various CD rates amongst the local financial institutions, which have the best deal, compare Internet offerings to local financial institutions.
- Compare credit card options and their rates/plans/interest charged, etc – best deals for students
- Compare costs of local rental housing – what do you get for the money, compare costs of dorms at UW-Oshkosh, houses vs apartment buildings, security door/gate, parking, amenities, utilities included
- Cost of setting up a dorm room and first year of college – hidden costs!
- Compare costs of attending a UW state school vs private college (ex: Marquette, St. Norbert, Lawrence)
- Lawsuits: the big business of lawsuits, unusual or outrageous lawsuits, receiving “just compensation” vs “lawsuit happy”. Be complete and have many examples.
- Life Insurance: how to purchase – whole vs term life insurance costs, what are the differences?
- Annuities – what are they? Should you own them? Who buys them?
- New housing vs older homes in Oshkosh – what do you get for the money? How much to build a new house in Oshkosh?
- Banks vs Credit Unions – what is the difference, fees/cost structure, services
- Wills and Trusts: what are they and do I need one?
- Book Report: Read a financial book from Suze Orman, Dave Ramsey, David Bach, Robert Kiyosaki, Glinda Bridgeforth, Jean Chatzky, etc and report findings and what you learned.
- Cost of foreign adoption
- Cost of domestic adoption
- Welfare system: how does it work and its costs. It is effective?
- Construct a financial bulletin board outside classroom or inside room on a financial concept or theme.
- Make a financial video – could be on a concept learned in class or a “commercial” for taking Personal Finance
- Cost of having a pet - all costs involved, adoption, licenses, vet bills, food, boarding
- “5 Wishes” Aurora Healthcare’s plan in event you cannot make decisions for self, present copies to class and show what is asked and why – go over all the choices
- Boom Towns – where are the places to move to that are thriving economically and why?
- Cost of vacations – in Wisconsin, United States, out of country – where to find “deals” how to travel cheaper, including how to get a passports – all costs associated
- Cost of running a business – starting your own business, buying into a franchise
- Cost of auto repairs for various maintenance or collision – log of how and when to do regular maintenance
- How to “flip a house” for yourself or as a business to increase wealth – watch “Flip This House” or “Flipping Vegas” and use clips
- Cost of being a foster parent
- Cost of healthcare in America – cost of various diseases, know differences of health plans: HMO, PPO, POS plans – Obama Care – how will it affect your taxes, what is covered, what will change, how does healthcare work in other countries?
- Cost of high school: graduation, sports, fees, prom, all the unexpected costs incurred
- Your own ideas – let’s talk and see what we come up with.

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You will be required to select a topic from the list (or if you have a great topic idea not on the list check with the teacher first for approval) and obtain as much information as you can about the subject. One topic per student, per class and no duplicates will be allowed. A lot of these topics are fun to research so this shouldn't be too much of a chore. You are asked to use as many different resources as possible. For instance, information can be obtained from magazines, books, newspapers, experts in the field, videos, Internet, etc. Use whatever information you can find to make your paper and presentation interesting and appealing. The more you put into it the better your grade. Little effort = little grade!

Project Guidelines

Written:	100 points
<u>Oral:</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total:	200 points

You will be asked to complete a typed research paper with a minimum of 3 pages (double spaced) in length. I will be looking for quality not quantity in your paper. Your paper should include the following:

1. Title Page (does not count as one of the three pages)
2. At least 1 chart, graph, page of costs, anything that is not in written form
3. Bibliography/Resources page – a minimum of 3 sources are required
4. 3 pages on the main topic
5. Grading based on completeness of the topic, organization, and neatness which includes spelling and proofreading
6. Oral Presentation - Minimum of 10 minutes to a maximum of 30 minutes
7. At least 1 visual aid must be used during the oral presentation

*****You will be given a limited amount of class time to work on this.
Most of your work will be done outside of class time.*****

Personal Finance - Life Planning Project Oral Presentation

Student:

Topic:

Category	Possible	5	4	3	2	1/0
Format	10	The class was fully engaged and participated at a stellar level.	Class participating was more than adequate.	Student adequately used all of the time allotted for the presentation, encouraged questions, and provided thoughtful answers.	Student failed to encourage questions or provide thoughtful answers. Student could have used presentation time more effectively.	Student clearly did not effectively use time allotted.
Visual Aids	20	3 or more visual aids were used. The quality of the visual aids was exceptional.	2 visual aids were used. The quality of the visual aids was beyond adequate.	A minimum of one visual aid for the oral presentation was used. The quality of the visual aid was adequate.	The visual aids were of poor quality.	A visual aid was not used with the oral presentation.
Tone of Voice Attitude & Presentation Skills	10	Student has exceptional presentation skills. Student speaks to the audience and involves them in the presentation.	Student speaks to the audience and incorporates the audience minimally into their presentation.	Student uses adequate presentation skills. Volume of presentation made it difficult to hear at times.	Student can improve on presentation skills through increased volume and audience interaction.	Student did not speak to the audience and was difficult to hear at times.
Effort	30	Excellent effort was present in oral presentation.	Above average effort is present in the oral presentation.	Average effort is evident in the oral presentation.	Student has put forth below average effort.	No effort was evident in the oral presentation. Student was clearly not prepared to speak.
Command of Subject Matter	20	Presentation contained excellent and informative information. Student's understanding of content was superior.	Presentation contained informative information and student's understanding was proficient.	Presentation contained basic information and student's understanding was basic.	Presentation was missing one/two key points of information. Student's understanding of the information was basic.	Presentation was missing key information and student did not understand the information presented.
Time Management	10	Student was prepared and ready to present on day assigned.	Student was not prepared and presented one day late.	Student was not prepared and presented two days late.	Student was 3 or more days late in presenting.	Student did not complete an oral presentation.

Personal Finance - Life Planning Project Written Presentation

Student:

Topic:

Category	Possible	5	4	3	2	1/0
Format	10	Topic was covered thoroughly with detailed information. Content exceeded the required criteria.	Topic was covered with detailed information and contained more than three pages of content.	Topic was covered and included all the necessary criteria.	Topic was covered and is missing one of the necessary criteria.	Topic was covered and is missing two or more of the necessary criteria.
Visual Aids	20	Three or more quality visual aids were submitted with report.	Two quality visual aids were submitted with the written report.	A minimum of one visual aid is submitted.	One visual aid is submitted however the quality is poor.	No visual aids were submitted with the written report.
Grammar	10	Written report was error free.	Written report has 1-2 grammar or spelling errors.	Written report has 3-5 grammar or spelling errors.	Written report has 6-10 grammar or spelling errors.	Written report has more than 11 grammar or spelling errors. Lack of proofreading is evident.
Effort	20	Excellent effort was present in written report.	Above average effort is present in the written reports.	Average effort is evident in the written report.	Student has put forth below average effort.	No effort was evident in the written report. Student clearly did not research the topic.
Command of Subject Matter	30	Report contained excellent and informative information. Student's understanding of content was superior.	Report contained informative information and student's understanding was proficient.	Report contained basic information and student's understanding was basic.	Report was missing one/two key points of information. Student's understanding of the information was basic.	Report was missing key information and student did not understand the information presented.
Time Management	10	Report was prepared and ready to turn in on day assigned.	Report was not prepared and was turned in one day late.	Report was not prepared and was turned in two days late.	Report was 3 or more days late being turned in.	Student did not complete a written report.