

INDEPENDENT LIVING ASSIGNMENT

One-Month Budget

For this assignment, you are now living by yourself, independently. You are to be self-sufficient. You must live on the income indicated on the ad for your job. If there is a salary range, you will live on the lowest end of the range (remember, you are just out of school and do not have any experience yet). You are to list your monthly expenses on the attached sheets using the following as a guide:

HOUSING: You must select an apartment in the city where your job is located. Use the website: www.apartments.com. Print the page that lists all the facts about your apartment. If it states somewhere on the website that utilities or garbage are included in rent, you must print that page also. If utilities are included in the rent, it will say “included”, not “feature” under the model number (put the word “included” on the amount line). If you want to share an apartment with someone, it has to be a real person who lives in your city. Of course, you will then select a two-bedroom apartment. You may split the cost of rent and utilities.

TRANSPORTATION: You must select a car using a website such as www.autotrader.com or www.car.com. It must be found in or around the city in which you will be living. You may select any vehicle you want, as long as you can afford the payments. Print the page that describes your vehicle. To figure your monthly payments, go to www.carloan.com and follow these instructions:

- Click on “How much will my vehicle payments be?”
- Enter your purchase price.
- Enter “0” for Cash Rebate.
- Enter “0” for the amount of your trade in and amount owed on trade in.
- Enter the amount of your down payment – You may put 20% down.
- Enter the months for the loan term – If the vehicle is 5 years or older, you must finance it for 3 years (36 months). If it is newer than 5 years, you may finance it for up to 5 years (60 months).
- Interest rate is 9%.
- NOW, PRINT THE PAGE.
- Click “next” to see your monthly payment and PRINT THE NEXT PAGE.

To figure your car taxes, call the Department of Motor Vehicles at 471-2281, and ask them what your vehicle tax (not sales tax) would be on your vehicle. Divide that figure by 12, and that will be your monthly budget.

INSURANCE: Health insurance is required, life insurance is optional.

FOOD: Amount given is minimum amount required. If you need to put a lower amount here, explain how you will eat everyday on your amount.

CLOTHES: This figure must be calculated depending upon your job. If you have to wear professional clothes, you must budget for them.

FURNITURE: Explain what furniture you will have and where it will come from. If you have to buy something, be sure to budget for it.

TUITION/SCHOOL LOANS: If you are planning on attending college, you may have to pay for part of your tuition with school loans. This amount should be a monthly amount used to pay back your loans.

MISCELLANEOUS: Don't skimp here – be realistic. Be sure to put a monthly amount to budget for gifts (Christmas, birthdays).

SAVINGS: Should be at least 10%.

TITHE: Must be at least 10%.

Total all of your expenses and put them on the summary sheet on the back page of the worksheet. MAKE SURE YOU ARE WITHIN YOUR BUDGET!

When you are finished, put the following sheets (in order) in a folder and hand it in:

1. Title Page
2. Three-page budget worksheet
3. Ad for your job
4. Fact sheet about your apartment
5. Fact sheet about utilities or garbage being included in rent, if necessary
6. Fact sheet about car
7. Financing details about your monthly payment

EXPENSES

1. HOUSING:

Rent		_____
Electricity	35.00	_____
Gas	25.00	_____
Telephone	40.00	_____
or Cell Phone	35.00	_____
Trash Pickup	15.00	_____
Cable TV	30.00	_____
TOTAL HOUSING		_____

2. TRANSPORTATION:

Car Payment		_____
Auto Repair		_____
Insurance	75.00	_____
Car Taxes		_____
Gasoline		_____
Parking		_____
Bus Fare		_____
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION		_____

3. INSURANCE:

Health Insurance	50.00	_____
Life Insurance	(10.00)	_____
TOTAL INSURANCE		_____

4. FOOD:

At least \$7.00/day=\$210/month _____

5. CLOTHES:

6. FURNITURE:

List furniture from home:

List furniture purchased. Budget _____
for a monthly payment by
dividing total amount of
furniture by 12.

7. TUITION/SCHOOL LOANS: _____
8. MISCELLANEOUS:
- Gifts _____
 - Dates _____
 - Recreation/Entertainment _____
 - Internet _____
 - Laundry _____
 - Personal Needs _____
 - Newspaper/Magazines _____
 - Bedding, towels _____
 - TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS _____
9. SAVINGS – should be at least 10% _____
10. TITHE: - must be at least 10% _____

SUMMARY SHEET

GROSS MONTHLY PAY: _____

Note: To figure monthly pay when an hourly rate is given, take the hourly rate times 2,080 (number of work hours in a year) then divide by 12.

TAKE-HOME PAY:

Because you pay approximately 27% of your income in taxes to the government, you must live on 73% of the income. Figure your TAKE-HOME PAY:

Monthly pay _____ x .73 _____ = _____

MONTHLY EXPENSE SUMMARY:

1. Housing _____
2. Transportation _____
3. Insurance _____
4. Food _____
5. Clothes _____
6. Furniture _____
7. Tuition/School Loans _____
8. Miscellaneous _____
9. Savings _____
10. Tithe _____

TOTAL EXPENSES _____

Using the above figures, fill in the chart below:

TAKE-HOME PAY _____

Less TOTAL EXPENSES _____

SURPLUS _____