

“On Your Own” Report

Scenario: The day after your high school graduation, you have been forced to live on your own with \$2000 in savings. This project is designed to give you experience and knowledge so you will have familiarity for many of the responsibilities and costs that you will soon have to take care of. The more realistic you take this and the more effort you put into this, the better prepared you will be to face the important challenges of your financial future!

This page provides the general overview. Please see subsequent pages for individual requirements. Read through all directions carefully.

Part I: Written Paper

The written paper must be typed and in MLA format. Please note that while some parts just have a written component, other parts require you to print an additional item out. Read directions carefully. You are responsible for completing each component in this packet since you are supposed to read everything carefully.

- A. Occupation
- B. House/Apartment
- C. Utilities
- D. Transportation
- E. Health Insurance
- F. Clothing
- G. Recreation/Entertainment
- H. Household Needs
- I. Educational Expenses

Part II: Weekly Menu

Prepare a complete weekly menu for each day's breakfast, lunch, and dinner. You may not skip meals, and you may only eat one meal a week at your parents' place. If you're going on a date, assume that you are paying for your own meal

Note: When you're making your monthly budget, you'll need to multiply the weekly menu budget by four (x4) to get the monthly grocery budget.

Part III: Weekly Shopping List

Make a list of all the things you need to buy at the grocery store or stores like Target or Wal-Mart. Include the prices for these items. For items that you will not need every week, figure out how many weeks that item will last and divide it by the price of that number (Windex \$2.39/8 weeks = \$0.30 per week).

Part IV: Monthly Balance/Budget Sheet and Reflection

Use Parts I, II, and III to make up a monthly balance sheet. Start off with the money you make and add a line for each of your many deductions for your expenses. Write a reflection.

A. Job and Taxes

Part 1:

If you already have a job and want to use this for your project, bring a copy of your paystub (you may white out your personal information besides your name). Your pay stub **MUST** indicate your pay. You will staple your paystub to the back of Part II.

If you don't have a job or want a new one for this project, go on the Internet and find a job that you are qualified for. You would be qualified for entry-level jobs that only require a high school diploma and no experience. Your job listing **MUST** include pay. Print the job listing and staple it to the back of Part II.

It should go without saying that your job must be legal and classroom-appropriate.

Part 2:

Type out the answers to these questions in MLA format. Please number your responses to show what questions you're answering.

- 1) What your job is
- 2) What you imagine the responsibilities to be
- 3) Why you might end up not liking this job
- 4) Why you might really like this job
- 5) Why you think that you could be good at this job

Part 3:

Fill out the Federal Income Taxes and State Income Taxes worksheets (next two pages) and staple it to the back of Part II.

Directions: Fill out the following federal and state income tax worksheets. Staple it to Parts I and II of Jobs and Taxes.

FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

Figuring out your Annual Gross Income (AGI) -

If your job is paying you a wage:

_____ per hour X 40 hours a week X 50 weeks a year = _____

If your job gives you a salary, write this salary here: _____

FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

Tax Brackets (2012 Dollar Amounts)	
Unmarried Filers	
Over	But Not Over
\$0	\$8,700
8,700	35,350
35,350	85,650
85,650	178,650
178,650	388,350
388,350	...

Figure out how much money will go to your federal income taxes from each bracket that applies to you.

1. Put a line through any bracket that does not apply to you (if you make \$70,000, than cross off the 4th bracket).
2. For the highest bracket that applies to you, cross off the highest amount for that bracket and replace it with your salary (if you make \$70,000, cross off the \$85,650 in the third bracket and replace it with \$70,000).
3. Work out all of the brackets that apply to you (If you are in the third bracket, that means that you have to work out brackets 1-3)

1st Bracket: $\$8,700 - 0 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ X 10% = _____

2nd Bracket: $\$35,350 - \$8,700 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ X 15% = _____

3rd Bracket: $\$85,650 - \$35,350 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ X 25% = _____

4th Bracket: $\$178,650 - \$85,650 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ X 28% = _____

Sum of all federal income taxes to be paid (FIT) = _____

Annual Gross Income minus Federal Income Tax (AGI - FIT)

AGI - FIT = \$ Leftover After FIT

_____ - _____ = _____

CALIFORNIA STATE INCOME TAXES

Schedule X — Single or married/RDP filing separately					
If the taxable income is					
Over	But not over	Tax is			Of amount over
\$0	\$7,316	\$0.00	Plus	1.00%	\$0
\$7,316	\$17,346	\$73.16	Plus	2.00%	\$7,316
\$17,346	\$27,377	\$273.76	Plus	4.00%	\$17,346
\$27,377	\$38,004	\$675.00	Plus	6.00%	\$27,377
\$38,004	\$48,029	\$1,312.62	Plus	8.00%	\$38,004
\$48,029	And over	\$2,114.62	Plus	9.30%	\$48,029

AGI-FIT (Last # From the 1st Page) = _____

1) In the table above, use the above number and circle the tax bracket you are in

2) Your AGI-FIT X Your Percentage

_____ X _____ = _____

3) Write down the tax that applies to you (the amount in the third column): _____

4) Your Annual State Income Tax

Amount in #2 + Amount in #3

_____ + _____ = _____

5) Annual Income Tax Total (Federal Plus State)

FIT + Annual State Income Tax

_____ + _____ = _____

YOUR EFFECTIVE TAX RATE

#5 ÷ Your Annual Gross Income (your answer need to be

expressed as a percentage)

_____ ÷ _____ = _____%

B. House/Apartment

Part 1:

Go on the Internet and find an apartment that you would like to have for the scenario detailed above. Print the Internet listing out and staple it to the back of Part II. The listing must provide plenty of details that make you want to live there.

This listing must be for a southern California location.

Keep in mind how much you make when you decide on a place to live. If you're not making very much money and you choose a very expensive place to live, you will NOT receive any points.

The listing MUST show how much money is required for monthly rent.

Part 2:

Type out the answers to these questions in MLA format. Please number your responses to show what questions you're answering.

- 1) In your own words, describe your place
- 2) Explain all of the factors that made you choose this place
- 3) Type out the monthly rent and circle it. If you chose a 2-bedroom place, you can split the rent in half, 3-bedroom place can be split into thirds, etc.
- 4) Type out and circle any other fees that you will have to pay according to the listing

C. Utilities

Part 1:

Determine how much your utilities are going to cost you each month. You MUST pay for electricity, water, and gas. You may want to get Internet, cable/satellite, Netflix, Hulu, a cell phone, etc. How much are your individual utility expenses? In your typed answer, explain how much you are spending on utilities each month and what your utilities are.

D. Transportation

Part 1:

Print out a car insurance quote. You may not stay on your parents' car insurance policy. If you have a car insurance policy that is solely 100% in your name (meaning your parents are not connected to the policy and do not have any cars on the policy), you may print out the quote.

Car Insurance Quote

1) Go to this link (www.thegeneral.com) and enter in information for a 2005 Honda Accord DX continue on until you get to the "Get Quote" page. Print out this page that should have the information about the specifics about your coverage. Do NOT move on to the "Apply Online" page or enter any of your real contact information.

2) Circle the premium and the deductibles on the print-out.

3) Divide the premium by 6 (the number of months that it is good for) to find out how much you'll be paying for auto insurance a month. Write out "Monthly Insurance: _____" and circle this.

Part 2:

Explain how much you'll spend on gasoline each month based on your commute from home to your job. You will need an oil change every 3,000 miles, so write how much that will cost you. Include an oil change advertisement to prove that. You will also need to save \$42 a month to go toward any car repairs.

E. Health Insurance

Part 1:

Print out a health insurance quote and follow each of the steps below. For the sake of the assignment, you may not stay on your parents' health insurance plan for this.

1) Go to <http://www.ehealthinsurance.com/>

2) Type in your zip code and click "go"

3) Put in your basic information where it says "Applicant and then click "Go"

4) Choose a plan that you are interested in and click "Plan Details"

5) Print out the page it sent you to (It should be a page that says "Monthly Cost")

6) From that "Monthly Cost" page, click "Show All Plan Details"

7) Copy and paste all of the information on the "Show All Plan Details" page into a blank word processor file and print it out.

8) Circle or highlight all of the terms that we discussed in our "On Your Own – Health Insurance" Notes/Discussion

9) Staple the "Show All Plan Details" information to the back of your "Monthly Cost" page.

F. Clothing

Part 1:

Describe the types of clothes that you plan on wearing. Figure out a monthly allowance that you will use buy clothes. What stores will you buy clothes from?

G. Recreation/Entertainment

Part 1:

Type out a minimum of a half-page, MLA format paper describing about all of the different things that you're going to do to keep you entertained and happy. The things that you write about are not necessarily just things that cost money. Figure how much you are going to set aside for entertainment monthly. If you do a good enough job on this, I should have a good idea of your personality.

H. Household Needs

Part 1:

Describe all of your households needs. What are the cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items you will need to buy regularly? Figure out how much you are going to set aside weekly and monthly.

I. Educational Expenses

Part 1:

Will you be going to college? If yes, figure out the expenses (tuition, parking, books, etc.). If you calculate the yearly cost, divide it by 12 to find out your monthly expenses. If you are not going to college, you must thoroughly explain why and what you'll be doing instead.

Part II: Weekly Menu

Part 1:

Fill out and turn in this rough draft of your weekly menu and shopping list. You may not skip meals. You must have a beverage at every meal (water is okay). You may only spend one meal a week at your parents' house (just write "Meal at Parents' House). If you think you'll be going on dates, you will pay your own way. Include any fast food meals or meals at restaurants you might eat. For the sake of the assignment, you don't get to do any meal plans at college dorms.

MONDAY -

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

TUESDAY -

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

WEDNESDAY -

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

THURSDAY -

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

FRIDAY -

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

SATURDAY -

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

SUNDAY -

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

Estimated Weekly Cost for Meals in Restaurants:

Part III: Weekly Shopping List

Part 1:

Use your weekly menu to help you develop a grocery list. Use your household needs to develop a non-food grocery list (makeup, cleaning products, toiletries, etc). Make a list for all the things you need to buy and include the prices of these items.

Food Grocery List

Non-Food Grocery List

Part Two:

Print out a grocery list using the following instructions:

1. Go to <http://www.peapod.com>
 - Type in 02912 for zip code and click "Create an account" (you won't actually create an account)
 - Drop down the menu so that you choose "Providence, RI" and click "Continue"
 - When it asks you to log-in, click "No thanks, skip"
 - Use the search field to find the first item on your list. Type in the quantity that you want (for most items, it will be 1" and then click "Buy". This will add the item to your shopping cart
 - Do this for ALL (food items, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products) items that you would purchase at a grocery store
 - Click "Review Order"
 - You will see a list of all of the items that you placed in your cart.
 - Print out this list but of course, do NOT actually purchase these items (goes without saying, right???) . You do not need to use a color printer.
2. For each item that will last longer than a week, next to the price of the item, you need to add a divided by symbol and your denominator needs to the number of weeks that item will last you.

For example: If you have Windex on your list and the price is \$3.99 than next to \$3.99, write in a divided by symbol and the number of weeks you think that container of Windex will last you. $3.99 / 16 \text{ weeks} = \0.25
3. Total up all of your items (using the adjusted prices) and have a grand total at the very end circled.

Part IV: Monthly Balance Sheet and Reflection

Part 1:

Monthly Balance Sheet

This balance sheet is based on all of the costs from the different aspects of the On Your Own Unit.

Start by listing your monthly income (take your net income after all the taxes were taken out and divide by 12). Then, list each expense and its cost (ex: Rent - \$950). The number you are left with is your monthly balance (the money left over).

Type out your monthly balance sheet and circle the final balance with a colored pen.

EXAMPLE: (Note: This is an example. The numbers are made up, so that means your numbers may end up being vastly different.)

Monthly Income = \$2000
Apartment -\$500
Utilities - \$100
Transportation - \$300
Health Insurance - \$100
Clothing - \$50
Recreation/Entertainment - \$50
Household Needs - \$100
Educational Expenses - \$200
Groceries and Non-Groceries - \$200
Total Expenses - \$1600
(\$2000 - \$1600)
MONTHLY BALANCE = \$400
(You'd circle the "\$400" with a colored pen)

Part 2:

Reflection

Type a half-page paper answering the following questions in MLA format. Number your answers.

- 1) Why you think I assigned this project
- 2) What you learned from the project
- 3) What surprised you the most about this project

“On Your Own” Report Rubric
Turn this in with your final project.

Part I: Written Report

A. Job and Taxes

Part 1: ___/5 points

Part 2: ___/5 points

Part 3: ___/5 points

B. House/Apartment

Part 1: ___/5 points

Part 2: ___/5 points

C. Utilities

Part 1: ___/5 points

D. Transportation

Part 1: ___/5 points

Part 2: ___/5 points

E. Health Insurance

Part 1: ___/5 points

F. Clothing

Part 1: ___/5 points

G. Recreation/Entertainment

Part 1: ___/5 points

H. Household Needs

Part 1: ___/5 points

I. Educational Expenses

Part 1: ___/5 points

Total Part I: ___/65 points

Part II: Weekly Menu

A. Part 1: ___/5 points

Total Part II: ___/5 points

Part III: Weekly Shopping List

A. Part 1: ___/5 points

B. Part Two: ___/5 points

Total Part III: ___/10 points

Part IV: Monthly Balance Sheet and Reflection

A. Part 1: ___/10 points

B. Part 2: ___/10 points

Total Part IV: ___/20 points

Total: _____/100 points

Tests & Projects Category