



JA Personal Finance[®]

Program Overview

Students experience the interrelationship between today's financial decisions and future financial freedom. To achieve financial health and wellness, they learn about money-management strategies, including earning, employment and income, budgeting, savings, credit and debt, consumer protection, smart shopping, risk management, and investing. At the conclusion of this program, students will be able to demonstrate that their personal finances affect their quality of life. They will understand how their financial choices will be the basis of how they get what they want and need.



The program consists of eight 45-minute sessions with Additional Opportunities offered throughout. The program has two implementation options—basic or advanced. Basic implementation includes Sessions One–Five delivered by the volunteer. Advanced implementation includes Sessions One–Five delivered by the volunteer and Sessions Six–Eight delivered by the teacher or volunteer. Advanced implementation depends on educator requirements and correlations to local standards.

Session	Session Objectives/Goals Students will be able to:	Session Components	Student Interactive	Materials Needed
SESSION ONE Earning, Employment, and Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define a relationship between educational choices and career prospects, and job satisfaction. Cite evidence to support the relationship between educational choices and earning potential. Recognize that education and training affect lifetime income. 	Welcome	Introduce the program topics and session overview. Watch a brief video about personal finance.	Session One Student Guide
		Warm-Up	Define key terms.	
		Strengthen Activity	Introduce priorities and values. Complete a personal priorities evaluation to help students brainstorm personally relevant careers. Brainstorm a list of career options.	Priorities and Values Self-Evaluation handout
		Sprint Activity	Review character profiles and choose careers for the characters that match their priorities and values.	Financial Fitness Score Sheet
		Cool Down	Review key concepts and take the post-session quiz.	
SESSION TWO Budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize the importance of making and keeping a budget or spending plan. Consider the wide range of expenditures that might make up a monthly budget. 	Warm-Up	Watch a brief video about spending habits and define key terms.	Session Two Student Guide
		Strengthen Activity	Work in groups to create a budget for a party, once with an unlimited budget and again with half the budget.	Party Budget Spreadsheet Party Planning Price Sheets
		Sprint Activity	Sort expenses into four budget categories.	Financial Fitness Score Sheet
		Cool Down	Review key concepts and take the post-session quiz.	

Session and Topic	Session Objectives/Goals Students will be able to:	Session Components	Student Interactive	Materials Needed
SESSION THREE Savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize high-dollar items and unexpected costs that require savings. Review key concepts related to successfully saving money. 	Warm-Up	Watch a brief video about the importance of an emergency fund and define key terms.	Session Three Student Guide
		Strengthen Activity	Work in groups to track their savings and spending.	Savings Grab Bag
		Sprint Activity	If applicable, watch a brief video about savings. Examine two savings plans and choose the one most likely to accomplish a goal.	
		Cool Down	Review key concepts and take the post-session quiz.	
SESSION FOUR Credit and Debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate between credit and debt. Recognize the factors that affect an individual's credit score and credit history. Recognize the consequences of a low credit score. 	Warm-Up	Define key terms and watch a brief video about the benefits and costs of credit.	Session Four Student Guide
		Strengthen Activity	Work in groups and compete in a quiz game based on the facts they learned in the Warm-Up and from the Credit Fact Collection sheet.	Credit Fact Collection sheet
		Sprint Activity	In groups, read and discuss each profile to decide on whether or not to lend money for a car loan.	Profile in Credit
		Cool Down	Review key concepts and take the post-session quiz.	
SESSION FIVE Consumer Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify behaviors that may harm their personal finances. Recognize ways to protect their finances. Define <i>credit report</i>. Summarize the rights people have to examine their credit reports. Define <i>identity theft</i> and propose solutions to identity theft. 	Warm-Up	Watch a brief video about cyber privacy and define key terms.	Session Five Student Guide
		Strengthen Activity	Work with a partner to look for signs of risk to the personal finances of a college student.	Clue Sheet (optional)
		Sprint Activity	Play a game to test their knowledge about choices to protect personal finances.	
		Cool Down	Review key concepts and take the post-session quiz.	
SESSION SIX Smart Shopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the factors necessary for making an informed purchase. Compare and contrast prices and data when making a purchase decision. Calculate savings gained through smart shopping. 	Warm-Up	Define key terms.	Session Six Student Guide
		Strengthen Activity	Complete the Shop 'til You Drop activity to learn that where they shop and what they purchase affects what they can get for the money they spend.	Shop 'til You Drop Spreadsheet
		Sprint Activity	Compare two options and decide which is the better deal.	Financial Fitness Score Sheet
		Cool Down	Review key concepts and take the post-session survey.	

Session and Topic	Session Objectives/Goals Students will be able to:	Session Components	Student Interactive	Materials Needed
SESSION SEVEN Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize risk of financial loss as an everyday reality for everyone. Recognize risk management strategies and apply them appropriately. Understand the role of personal responsibility in preventing financial loss. 	Warm-Up	Define key terms. Identify examples of the four risk management strategies in a sorting game.	Session Seven Student Guide
		Strengthen Activity	In groups, act out scenarios that show risks that typically affect personal finances.	Risk Management Scenario Cards
		Sprint Activity	Play a risk management trivia game.	Financial Fitness Score Sheet
		Cool Down	Review key concepts and take the post-session quiz.	
SESSION EIGHT Investing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the role of compound interest in the growth of wealth over time. Recognize that investment options carry different levels of risk and reward. Analyze the risk tolerances for different investment strategies. 	Warm-Up	Define key terms and watch a brief video on investing and risk.	Session Eight Student Guide
		Strengthen Activity	Work in groups to choose the best investment portfolio for a client based on that person's character profile.	Investor Profile sheet Investment Portfolios handout
		Sprint Activity	Determine whether statements about investments are true or false.	
		Cool Down	Review key concepts and take the post-program quiz.	Program Certificates

Concepts: Benefits versus costs, budgeting, compound interest, consequences, cost of living, credit, credit card fraud, credit reporting and rating, debt, delayed gratification, earnings, education, expense tracking, financial management, identity theft, income, information mining, interest, investing, job skills, limited resources, liquidity, maximizing earnings, opportunity cost, pawnshop, payday loan, priorities, rent-to-own, return on investment, reward, risk, saving, savings plan, unlimited wants, variable and discretionary expenses

Skills: Analyze and evaluate data from multiple sources, car buying, comparing results, comparison shopping, computer skills, create savings plan, critical thinking, decision making, disputing unauthorized charges on a credit card, estimating, evaluate the risk and reward of an opportunity, evaluating online resources, evaluating options, evaluating personal skills, grocery shopping, interpreting analogy, long-term planning, online research, personal inventory, planning, predicting outcomes, presentation skills, prioritizing, proactive planning, problem solving, recognizing scams and fraud, requesting and checking credit report, research, saving and investing, sorting, teamwork, tracking expenses, weighing costs and benefits