

Financial Literacy Journal Entries 150 Points

Chapter 1 – Introduction to Personal Finance

20 Points

1. Can you think of a financial goal you have at this moment? Is this a long-term or a short-term goal?
2. Describe how you plan to achieve this financial goal.
3. In what ways could you do better when it comes to managing your money?
What was Dave's biggest lesson when it came to managing money and building wealth?
How do you want your financial future to look?
4. List the 7 key components of financial planning.
Describe some of the mistakes Americans often make when it comes to money.
5. Explain why understanding your money personality is important when it comes to developing a money plan that is right for you.
6. Does the History of Credit and Consumerism segment make you view the use of credit differently than you did before? Explain your answer.
7. Explain how marketing can affect your decisions when it comes to spending money.
8. Does managing your money well mean you cannot have fun with your money? Explain your answer.

Chapter 2 – Saving

15 Points

1. What are your initial thoughts about saving? What do you want to learn about saving?
2. What has kept you from saving in the past? Based on what you've learned, how can you change this?
3. Explain how having an emergency fund helps protect your wealth.
4. Why do you think so many people borrow money for large purchases instead of using a sinking fund?
5. How is saving an exercise of your character?
6. Why don't more people save for the future? Which reasons can be fixed by having a money plan?
7. What short-term, medium-term, and long-term money goals are you saving for? Why are each of those important.

Chapter 3 – Budgeting

10 Points

1. On average, how much money do you spend per week? What are your top three expenses?
2. Describe in your own words what it means to have a budget.
3. What do you think is most challenging when it comes to keeping a monthly budget?
4. Explain why Dave describes overdrafts as a sign of "crisis living."
5. Why do you think it is so common in America to spend more than you make?
6. Explain in your own words a zero-based budget. Why is it important to write a zero-based budget every month?

Chapter 4 – Debt

10 Points

1. What have you heard about "building your credit score"?
2. Explain what Dave means when he says, "The borrower is slave to the lender."
3. Explain why co-signing a loan is never a good idea.
4. Explain how the "drive free" method of buying a car works. Write an "I believe" statement regarding car loans.
5. Explain why leasing a car is a bad idea.
6. Explain why it is better to take out a 15-year mortgage instead of a 30-year mortgage.
7. Explain the difference between a credit card and a debit card.
8. What does a credit score measure?
9. Explain why the credit industry wants you to believe that you need a credit score.

Chapter 5 – Life After High School

10 Points

1. Not every career requires a four-year degree. Have you researched the education requirements for your career of choice? If so, what education options do you have? If not, research the education requirements for your career choice(s) and write them in your journal.
2. What is your plan for after high school graduation?
3. Why might people refer to student loans as "good debt"?
4. Imagine if your reality at age 24 was that you were \$70,000 in debt but your income was only \$30,000. Write down some words describing how you might feel.
5. Has money affected your decision on whether or not to attend college? Why or why not?
6. What money-saving options will you consider in order to cash-flow your college education?
7. Think about what careers you might be interested in pursuing. What type of education or training will you need to enter that field?

Chapter 6 – Consumer Awareness

10 Points

1. How does advertising affect your buying decisions?
2. Why is it important for consumers to be aware of marketing tactics?
3. What are some of your favorite brands (soft drink, clothing, etc.)? Why do you like them?
4. Describe one way advertising has played a role in something you've purchased.
5. Have you ever bought something you thought would make you happy, but in the end it didn't?
6. Can you think of anything in your home that was bought but never or rarely used?
7. Explain why it is important to develop power over purchase.

Chapter 7 – Bargain Shopping

10 Points

1. Explain the best deal you've ever negotiated.
2. Why do you think it's so uncommon for people in our culture to negotiate?
3. Explain why it is not necessary to purchase product replacement warranties.
4. Explain how you can get a better deal on something using cash rather than credit.
5. Explain why silence is powerful when negotiating a deal.
6. Why is bargain shopping an important part of a healthy financial plan?
7. Have you ever used social media to get a great deal on something?

Chapter 8 – Investing and Retirement

10 Points

1. List your initial thoughts about investing. What do you want to learn about investing?
2. As a young adult, what is the most important thing you can invest in?
3. If you were giving advice to a friend, what would you say are the most important things to know about investing?
4. Explain why single stocks carry a high degree of risk.
5. Which are a better investment, stocks or mutual funds? Explain your answer.
6. What is real estate? Why is it considered an investment?
7. Why do you think it is important to consider both salary and benefits when applying for a job?

Chapter 9 – Insurance

10 Points

1. What do you think is the purpose of insurance?
2. Explain why insurance is an important part of your financial plan.
3. What are some ways you can save on car insurance?
4. Explain why having health insurance is important even if you are young and healthy.
Describe how the different parts of insurance (premium, deductible, co-payment, and policy limits) can affect out-of-pocket costs.
5. At what stage of life will the cost of your healthcare needs be most expensive?
6. Explain why identity theft protection is so important.
7. What is duplicate coverage, and why should you avoid it?

Chapter 10 – Money and Relationships

5 Points

1. What are your initial thoughts about money and relationships? What do you want to learn about money and relationships?
2. Have you ever witnessed money affecting a relationship close to you?
3. Would you describe yourself as a Nerd or a Free Spirit when it comes to handling money?
Explain your answer.
4. How will this chapter change the way you talk to your parents about money?

Chapter 11 – Careers and Taxes

20 Points

1. What are your interests?
2. What are your career goals?
3. How would you describe yourself?
4. Describe your ability to work as part of a team.
5. What are some of your personal strengths and weaknesses?
6. Write down what your negative voice says about you. Refute that voice with the truth and share it with others.
7. Which careers compliment your passions and strengths?
8. Describe a recent goal you set for yourself. What did you do to make reaching that goal a success?
9. Describe a work experience that has helped you develop valuable career attributes such as a strong work ethic, respect, commitment, etc.
10. Look back at Jon's list of "Five Things Successful People Always Do." Which of these comes naturally to you? Which of these do you struggle with?
11. What do you think is the most important thing to remember when looking for a job?
12. Summarize what Jon Acuff means when he talks about being willing to expand your "Three Circles" when looking for a job.
13. Describe some costs and benefits associated with paying taxes.

Chapter 12 – Giving

10 Points

1. Do you feel as though giving is an important part of your financial plan? Why or why not?
2. How can giving of your time and talents align with your core values?
3. When you are doing your monthly budget, why do you think it is important to have "giving" placed at the very top?
4. List some areas of need in your school or community (youth programs, homeless shelter, humane society, recycling, roadside cleanup, nursing home, etc.).
5. When have you been impacted because someone gave their time, money or talents to help you? How did this affect you?

Chapter 13 – Global Economics

10 Points

1. What was the last item you bought that came from another country?
2. Explain how things get from other countries to your favorite stores.
3. Explain how jobs, which you have in order to make money, are just one part of a larger system related to the flow of money. If you currently have a job, use that one in your response.
4. In your opinion, why is GDP important to the United States?
5. How does supply and demand impact you personally? Explain how inflation impacts your ability to buy things.
6. How will this chapter change the way you view the prices of the things you buy?