

“Ready to Move Out!”

A Banking & Finance Long-Term Project

Objective: The students will learn how to: prepare for independent living; look for an apartment; how to interpret a lease; and how to buy a house.

Group Assignment: This assignment will be comprised of a 4-member team. A 3-member team may be sufficient. Groups must choose a leader and a recorder. All group members must do individual research to bring back to the group. All research will then be compiled and presented as one project in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. Graphics, word-art, sound, and timing should be used. A hard copy of the presentation is also required.

Time: 1 month

The following categories must be researched:

Preparing for Independent Living

- Discuss Living Arrangements—this includes your responsibilities, habits, and rules.
- Put everything in writing.
- Search for and decide on an apartment together.
- Plan for initial apartment expenses—first and last month’s rent, security and damage deposit, utility deposits and monthly bills including water and garbage, extras such as cable.

How to Look for an Apartment

- Use resources to help with finding an apartment, i.e. family and friends, classified ads, real estate agencies, apartment managers, internet.
- Compare furnished to unfurnished apartment.
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of have a roommate?
- What are the consequences of failure to pay on time?
- Once you have selected apartments, make arrangements to visit each location and be prepared to ask questions such as:
 - What is the monthly rent and initial deposit?
 - What expenses are included in the rent?
 - What type of security is provided?
 - What are the rules and regulations? Are pets allowed?
 - Is renter’s insurance required?

How to Interpret a Lease

- Define a lease and what is involved. How is a lease different from rent?
- Identify the pros and cons of a lease.

Lori Stringer and Shelia Cox-Marshall
Clayton County Public Schools
Dr. John W. Thompson, Superintendent

How to Buy a Home

- What are the sources of mortgage loans for a home purchase?
- List the advantages of buying a home vs. renting.
- List the disadvantages of buying a home.
- What are some things to consider before buying a home, i.e. location, down payment, closing costs, is the price negotiable, earnest money, taxes, insurance, etc.
- Identify the difference between "For Sale By Owner" and purchasing from a broker and bank.
- How long can you have a mortgage?
- How are rates calculated?
- How much time does it take to close on a house? How does closing work?
- What is escrow?

Other Tasks

- Look in the Business/Real Estate section of your local newspaper or online for information about rates currently charged for mortgage loans in your area. Create a chart listing the financial institutions, the length of the loan (15 or 30 years), and the rate.
- Look up ads for apartments for rent and homes for sale and provide at least 2 (two) real life examples of managing each, using the information and questions asked.
- Request a rental and lease agreement form from a landlord.
- Create a worksheet of a **one-month budget** for renting an apartment and buying a home. This should be 2 separate worksheets. Include all necessary expenses as well as things not considered a necessity. Decorate your worksheet and make it outstanding in appearance.

Project Rubric

The following skills should be demonstrated and mastered in the form of a presentation upon completion of this project: (each category is worth 20 pts.)

Rating	Criteria	Score
20	Completed all activities on "How to prepare for independent living."	
20	Completed all activities on "How to look for an apartment."	
20	Completed lease activities and provides a copy of a lease and rental agreement.	
20	Completed activities on "How to buy a house."	
20	Completed activities as listed under "Other Tasks". Presentation is well prepared.	