

WHAT DOES FINANCIAL LITERACY MEAN TO YOU?

According to Investopedia, financial literacy is “the education and understanding of various financial areas including topics related to managing personal finance, money and investing.” That’s great for a technical definition. We want your definition!

Tell us what financial literacy means to you in 100 words or less by May 1st and you could have your next Starbucks on us. Email your entry to info@claimyouryouth.com. Winner will be announced on your credit union’s web site Claim Your Youth page by May 29th.

GOOD LUCK!

SPRING 2020

CLAIM YOUR YOUTH

Getting Your First Gig



Finding your first job can be an unnerving process. You’re about to enter the workforce and earn your first taxable dollar, but in order to land a position, you must be prepared. For example, it’s important to know what the job is going to cost you.

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Don't worry, you're right, it's supposed to be about you making money, not losing it. First, understand how you're going to be taxed; you can research online and ask your parents. Another thing to consider is the location of the job you're applying for. Finding somewhere close to home or school not only makes the commute easier and decreases transportation costs, but it can also accommodate your schedule better. Remember, school is your priority, so it would be wise to find a job in which you work evening or weekend hours—however, summer provides more flexibility.

Three industries that teens can target are customer service, restaurants and retail. This doesn't mean office jobs are out of the question, and it doesn't mean you can't do what you're passionate about. You can search for jobs in your local paper's classified ads and online job sites, by asking family and friends for leads or by simply passing a "help wanted" flyer on display. See if any of the openings meet your interests. For example: If you love reading, try applying at a bookstore; or if you love music, see if a radio station or record store is hiring. On the other hand, it isn't bad if you break out of your comfort zone. If you're shy, maybe customer service or being a server isn't the ideal job, but this is a perfect opportunity to work on developing other skills.

There are plenty of options if you get creative with your search and put a good amount of effort toward finding an opening. Once you've honed in on a position and started the application process, take your time to make sure everything is in order because you want the interview to go smoothly. Here are five tips for the interview:

- **DRESS NICELY:** It's better to be overdressed than appear too casual.
- **BE PREPARED:** Have your Social Security Card, Driver's License and any other necessary documentation. If you're not sure about something, call and verify.
- **SPEAK WITH CONFIDENCE AND MAKE EYE CONTACT:** This shows why you're the right choice for the position.
- **BE HONEST:** Tell the employer about your schedule, and if you get the job and there happens to be a conflict, be courteous and call your employer to let them know the situation.
- **HIDE YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA:** Employers look at your social media profiles, it's just the way things work, so make sure you either set them to private, stay off them for a while or be mindful of what you post.

That last tip is vital, and must be stressed again. Don't ruin the interview before it takes place.

Now, get out there and find yourself your first gig.

SPRING INTO ACTION BEFORE THE FEVER HITS!!!!

Spring is around the corner; you can feel the warmer air, sense the blooming foliage and anxiously anticipate longer days spent outside with your friends. Don't let the beauty fool you, Spring Fever is very real—and very dangerous.

Okay, that was a little dramatic. No, you're not sick and not in true danger, but distractions are apparent and contagious. If you're not careful, you may fall victim to focusing on out-of-school activities and losing motivation in the classroom. Here are a few tips to get you through the semester while still enjoying the season.

The most important thing to do is to get organized, and the second most important thing to do is to stay organized. Try and plan out the rest of your semester so you don't forget about an assignment while you're out enjoying the weather. With that being said, another tip is to study outside. You're able to get the fresh warm air you were craving all winter, but you won't fall behind in your coursework. Lastly, study and have fun in moderation. Life is about balance, so make sure you're letting yourself enjoy the spring while preparing for the final stretch of class. A good way to do so is by rewarding yourself; do an assignment, then go do an activity and repeat. This allows you to stay motivated, but without being overwhelmed.

BONUS TIP: you have an extra hour (pending on your state's Daylight Savings Time status), so use it wisely. You can view it as extra time to go out or extra time to focus on your studies.

Spring is a wonderful time of year to enjoy, so make sure you're prepared for the change of season inside and outside the classroom.

Finding A FINANCIAL GURU

At this point in your life, it's hard to validate paying for financial advice because that would be a pretty poor financial decision assuming you don't have much income filtering into your bank account. However, that doesn't mean you shouldn't be thinking about the future and understanding money management to better prepare yourself for adulthood.

First, you can rely on your family and friends for advice, primarily the former. Your parents, guardians or other elders in your life have a lot of experience when it comes to good—and bad—decisions with money. You just need to ask and listen. Your friends may be in the same position as you are, but perhaps they can share advice they have received, or maybe one is a little better at math than the rest, and another a little better at planning.

If you would rather look for professional advice, you have access to many experts online. David Bach, Robert Kiyosaki, Dave Ramsey and Tony Robbins offer great financial advice



for all ages, and Erin Lowry and Anthony Oneal really target teens. Each guru has a website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, can be found on Youtube and television, and have contributed to a variety of publications. Maybe the most important point to be taken from their respective experiences is that they have all suffered through some financial hardship and were willing to overcome their struggle and become successful. That is some serious cred.

Here's some quick advice to get you started: Spend less than you earn, and if you can't, cut expenses or increase earnings, use your extra money to pay down debt or build up your savings account, and eventually transition into investing from saving.

You have access to great free advice daily, so make sure to use it.