

DISCUSSIONS

CASHCRUNCH DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The CashCrunch 101 game has been designed with the teacher in mind. It is a resource that is not there to replace the teacher, but for the teacher to be able to facilitate discussions and bring about a deeper understanding for their students in a fun and non-intimidating way. It is the belief of the team at CashCrunch Games, that by playing the game and using it as a starting point, there are a countless number of discussions and activities that can come about.

Here are just a few that the team has come up with. We are sure there will be many more. If you have any additional ideas, we would be happy to post them on the CashCrunch Games website for everyone to see.

From the Fixed Expenses Screen the following discussions and activities could take place:



JANUARY FIXED EXPENSES	
House Rent	\$300.00
Phone Bill	\$52.00
Car Insurance	\$121.00
Tuition Fees	\$49.00
Groceries	\$164.00
Gasoline	\$44.00
Total Fixed Expenses	\$730.00

House Rent. Rental prices of properties surrounding the school and different neighborhoods. Give reasons for the cost of one property being higher than another. A 3-bedroom house is a 3-bedroom house, right?

The debate whether to buy or not to buy - which leads in to opportunity cost, savings, loan interest rates, etc. Are you there to stay for a long time? Is it an investment? Is there a housing boom? Are there any legal requirements for both? What about liability and general up keep of the house, etc.

Phone Bill. What deals are out there? This is a great activity for comparison pricing. Different deals for different people. Can you find a better deal for the people in your household? What's in the terms and conditions?

Car insurance. What's the legal requirement? Are there different levels of insurance? What are the advantages and disadvantages? Where can you find car insurance? What's in the terms and conditions? What's the risk and reward of paying for the basic versus the most expensive coverage?

Tuition fees. Students are going to college. This is a good introduction into the cost of college and why it is important to make the right subject choice. What do courses cost? What's the benefit of moving away from your local town?

Groceries. Choose a standard basket of groceries, for example: milk, eggs, vegetables, etc. and then run a price check on the various grocery stores in the area. Why does one store charge more than another? Comparison of branded and store-branded goods could be conducted. Collect coupons and discuss

ways of cutting grocery costs. Possible reasons for increase in the price of goods, e.g. seasonal fruit, etc. How can you reduce the amount of groceries you need?

Gasoline. Graph the price of gasoline as it fluctuates over the month. Each student chooses a local gas station and charts the price of the gasoline on a daily / weekly basis. On those days, they then calculate what it would cost to fill up a car with a 15-gallon tank and chart the cost. Does the amount fluctuate? If so what would the difference be? Compare your findings with students from other parts of town.

How can you reduce the amount of fuel that you need? Does the price of fuel vary from state to state? Why is that?

Could the fixed monthly expenses be reduced and, if so, how?

Work on cutting your own households monthly expenses.

From the Income screen, the following discussions and activities could take place.

INCOME						
WEEK	HOURS WORKED	HOURLY RATE	WEEKLY WAGE	TIPS	(TAX WITHHELD)	TOTAL
1	12	\$9.00	\$108.00	\$18.00	\$25.20	\$100.80
2	9	\$9.00	\$81.00	\$63.00	\$28.80	\$115.20
3	23	\$9.00	\$207.00	\$34.00	\$48.20	\$192.80
4	16	\$9.00	\$144.00	\$65.00	\$41.80	\$167.20
					TOTAL	\$576.00

Hourly rate. Find out how much various jobs pay per hour. Does the rate depend on skills, qualifications, age, experience etc.? What's a salary?

Tips. In which jobs can you expect to get a tip? Why are tips given and how does your level of service affect your tip rate?

Tax. Why is tax taken out of your paycheck and where does it go? Does the tax rate vary? What types of taxes are there?

Hours worked. Is there a difference between full time and part time? As a student are there any limits on the number of hours you are allowed to work? What are the maximum hours that you are allowed to work during the week before overtime? Are there any legal rights of workers depending on the number of hours worked?

Gross and net pay. How is Gross and Net Pay calculated? What deductions would come out of a paycheck to become net pay? Why could the number of hours vary from week to week?

Savings	\$3000.00
Checking	\$949.80
Checking	Savings
Networth	\$3949.80
Money Earned	\$134.80
Expenses	\$185.00

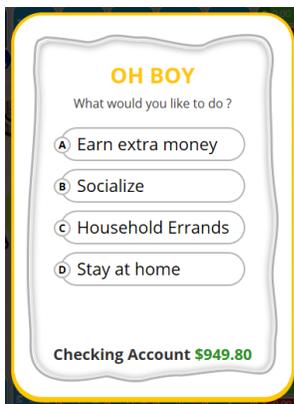
Savings. Discuss ways in which it is possible to save? Is it worth having an emergency fund? Discuss the ease of setting up a savings account.

From the Oh Boy cards, the following discussions and activities could take place.



Income cards. What potential sources of income are available to a student? How would you go about finding a part-time job or earning extra income? Find as many potential income streams in your neighborhood as possible.

Expense Cards. What expenses do you incur on a regular basis? How many of your expenses are seen as essential? Could any of the expenses be cut? Are there any alternatives to the expenses you currently face? Could you record all the transactions that you have made for a week?



Decision Cards. These show the concept of opportunity cost. Are there any consequences from the choices that have been made? If you go out and socialize, could you have benefitted from studying instead? Do you need the extra money or if you stayed at home and reorganized your spending, would that be a better use of your time?

Financial Statements.

Checking Account Opening Balance	\$845.09
INCOME	
Fixed Monthly Gross Income (80hr x \$9.00) + \$207.00 (tips)	\$927.00
-20% Tax	\$185.40
Fixed Monthly Net Income	\$741.60
Oh Boy Cards Income	\$125.94
Daily Bonus	\$0.00
Total Income	\$867.54
EXPENSE	
Oh Boy Cards Expense	\$275.65
Fixed Monthly Expense	\$607.00
Total Expense	\$882.65
Checking Account Current Balance	\$829.98

Introducing financial statements and why they are so important.

Opening balance plus Income, take away expenses equals closing balance. Total income minus total expense equals net inflow / outflow.

Why is it important to not just look at your opening and closing balance but also your net cash flow?

Financial Overview. This shows the essence of net worth. How does net worth increase or decrease? Why is it an important concept? How do savings play an important role in the game? Are there any moments in the game when they are needed? If so, why?