

THINK CRITICALLY

Handwrite your responses in the space below; 2 sentences each.

1. What are the advantages of using a buying plan?
2. How might a buying plan relate to your personal budget or financial plan?
3. What are the steps of a buying plan?
4. What does the word criteria mean? Why should you set criteria for evaluating a possible purchase?
5. Why does comparison shopping lead to better buying decisions?
6. What factors in addition to price should you consider when comparison shopping for an item?
7. Why is the Internet a good place to research products?
8. What can you do after a purchase to help ensure you make good choices in the future?



EXCEL PROBLEMS

Use Excel to solve the problems below and email the spreadsheet as an attachment.
MAKE SURE TO USE FORMULAS IN YOUR WORK!
(don't just type the answers)

Create a Buying Plan

1. In this activity, you will make a buying plan. Begin by creating a table in Excel with five columns and four rows. Enter the following headings in the table:

Need/Want	Item	Item Criteria	Timeline	Spending Limit
1				
2				
3				

2. Identify three needs or wants that you would like to purchase items or services to fill. List them in the table in the Need/Want column.
3. Identify items or services to fill each need or want. List them in the table in the Item column.
4. Identify the criteria that are important for each item or service. List them in the Item Criteria column in the table.
5. Select a time frame in which you want to make each purchase. List the time frames in the Timeline column of the table.
6. Select a price you are willing and able to pay for each purchase. List the prices in the Spending Limit column of the table.

Blogging About Personal Finance

There is a ton of useful information about personal finance out there on the web. Much of it is available on blog sites. Really. And while you should always consider the legitimacy of the source on the web, it's worth spending a little time looking at the blogs. For this assignment, I want you to find a blog on personal finance (or use one of the ones I've suggested below) and summarize TWO of the articles (much like you would for a current event – make sure to include the link).

Tip: When you visit pretty much any one of these sites, you will see links to MANY MANY other blogs (usually on the right side of the page). Explore!

getrichslowly.org

GetRich Slowly
Personal Finance That Makes Cents

wealthpilgrim.com

WealthPilgrim.com

mytwodollars.com

My Two Dollars

A Place To Discuss Money...For The Rest Of Us.

mmhabits.com

To Achieve... To Succeed...
Millionaire Money Habits

creditwithdrawal.com



CREDIT WITHDRAWAL
Helping You Kick the Credit Habit, One Good Idea at a Time

lazymanandmoney.com



- Blogs2Million
- Adult ADD and Finance
- All Financial Matters
- Alpha Consumer
- American Consumer News
- Bargaineering
- Bible Money Matters
- Blunt Money
- Boston Gal's Open Wallet
- Budgets Are Sexy
- Cash Money Life
- Chief Family Officer
- Christian PF
- Clever Dude
- Consumerism Commentary
- Don't Mess with Taxes
- Dual Income, No Kids
- Everybody Loves Your \$\$
- Five Cent Nickel
- Free Money Finance
- Frugal Duchess
- Gather Little By Little
- Generation X Finance
- Get Rich Slowly
- Green Panda Treehouse
- Guzzo the Contrarian
- Hustler Money Blog
- Hustlerama
- Lazy Man and Money
- Living After Foreclosure
- Mapgirl's Fiscal Challenge
- Money Crashers
- Money Matter & More Musings
- Money Musings
- Money Smart Life
- Mrs Micah
- My Dollar Plan
- My Money Blog
- My Open Wallet
- My Retirement Blog
- My Two Dollars
- No Credit Needed
- Not Made of Money
- Paid Twice
- PF Advice
- Plonkee Money
- Plugged In Finance
- Punny Money
- Quest for Four Pillars
- Rocket Finance
- Smart Spending
- Stop Buying Crap
- Sun's Financial Diary
- The Digerati Life
- The Happy Rock
- The Simple Dollar
- The Wisdom Journal
- Tough Money Love
- Wise Bread