

## Future Life Project CHART

**Purpose of this assignment:**

1. **Life is about choices. The choices you make have a profound effect on the way that you live. This project is about choices that you will make in your future, and helping you to be prepared.**
2. **Life is also about problem solving. This project focuses on the problem solving you will have to engage in when it comes to planning a budget.**
3. **The lifestyle to which you are currently accustomed may not happen to you right away when you start working. You need to be prepared for that. This is your “reality check”.**
4. **Reading contracts, bills, pay stubs, insurance, and writing checks are not intuitive. Reading and understanding them takes practice, this is an opportunity to practice in a way that will not negatively impact your bank account.**
5. **Financial literacy is important for independence and future success in life, again, this is an opportunity to get practice with this set of skills.**
6. **When filling out this chart, please bold or highlight your responses or use a different color font.**

<b>NAME</b>
<b>TASK 1: Find a Job</b>
<p>A. Write a paragraph in which you describe your ultimate work environment, including the type of location, the daily schedule (start and end time), the type of clothing you have to wear, the number of days a week you will work, etc.</p> <p>Ideally, I would work early in the day at an indie coffee shop and remotely complete graphic design commissions in the afternoon. At the coffee shop, the atmosphere is cozy, there are plants, I get to pick the music, and I can wear whatever I choose. My schedule would be working from 7am - 3pm as a barista four to six days a week. In the afternoon on those days, or whenever I have the time, I would complete projects for a graphic design firm or commissions as a freelance artist.</p>
<p><b>B. Go to the OHIO MEANS JOBS website and look at the options given for your “Career Cluster Inventory”. Choose one of the jobs from the options that they gave you, or choose a job that you know you are interested in doing.</b></p> <p>Explain educational and skills requirements for the job. Also, explain why you chose it, what you will be doing on a daily basis (based upon the description of the job). This can be done using bullet points.</p>

Most graphic design firms would look for a candidate with a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design. With the right software, I could achieve a degree in Graphic Design online while working somewhere else (like a coffee shop). However, I could work freelance commissions without a degree with evidence of skill and experience. Daily tasks include product design, completing illustrations, creating logos, photographing and reviewing layouts, and keying info into computer equipment.

C. Figure out a bi-weekly paycheck based upon the average amount that a particular job is paid per year. On the OHIO MEANS JOBS website, for each job, there is a listing of the average salaries. **Choose the low end salary!!!**

What is your yearly salary? \$49,720

What is your monthly salary? (divide your yearly salary by 12) \$4,151

How much will your Gross Pay be for two weeks? (Hint: divide your monthly salary by two) \$2,075

What is your hourly pay? (divide your bi-weekly salary by 80) The lower end of the average hourly pay on the website is fifteen dollars an hour for a graphic designer and eleven dollars an hour for baristas.

#### D. "HEALTH CARE INSURANCE ACTIVITY"

##### INSTRUCTIONS:

Go to the following website: <https://www.healthcare.gov/see-plans/>

Follow the prompts to get a listing of the plans that are available to you.

Use the following websites to help you understand the information about each of the plans:

<https://www.medmutual.com/For-Individuals-and-Families/Health-Insurance-Education/Glossary-of-Terms.aspx>

<https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/understanding-your-health-coverage/>

##### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- You should be given several plans. Compare them. Answer the following questions:
  - What is the monthly premium? \$55.48
  - What is the deductible? \$8,700
  - What does the word deductible mean? The amount of money I have to pay for covered services before the plan pays them.
  - How much is the coinsurance? I could not find that information.
  - How much are the copayments? No charge after the deductible for everything except generic drugs, which are \$30 after the deductible.

- Answer the following questions:
  - What items do you use on a daily basis that you have to have to function? (Contact lenses, glasses, medications, etc.) **Nothing.**
  - How much will they cost under the plan you have chosen? **N/A**
  - Are you surprised by the costs of healthcare? Why or why not? **I am indifferent towards them.**
  - What DOESN'T the plan cover? **Out of network healthcare visits and drugs.**
- How much will you have to pay in the following situations:
  - You need to see a specialist? **No charge after deductible.**
  - You have an emergency? **No charge after deductible.**

Determine the amount you will have to pay each month for your monthly contribution as well as the monthly costs for things you use on a daily basis- medications, etc. Enter it : **Estimated yearly cost is \$1,016 and the monthly cost is \$84.66.**

Estimated monthly premium

## \$55.48

Including a \$178 tax credit  
Was \$233.48

**CareSource** ★★★★☆ ⓘ

[CareSource Marketplace Bronze Dental, Vision, & Fitness](#) Compare

Bronze | HMO | Plan ID: 775520H0020206

<p><b>Deductible</b> ⓘ</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,700</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Individual total</p>	<p><b>Out-of-pocket maximum</b> ⓘ</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,700</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Individual total</p>	<p><b>Estimated total yearly costs</b> ⓘ</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1,061</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; border: 1px solid #000; padding: 2px 5px; margin-top: 5px;">Edit yearly cost</p>
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**Copayments / Coinsurance** ⓘ

Emergency room care	Generic drugs	Primary doctor	Specialist doctor
No Charge After Deductible	\$30	No Charge After Deductible	No Charge After Deductible

**Plan features**

- ✓ Adult Dental
- ✓ Child Dental

Add medical providers

Add your medical providers and we'll show you which plans cover them

Add prescription drugs

Add your prescription drugs and we'll show you which plans cover them.

Plan Details

Like This Plan

### E. "Reading a Pay Stub"

Go to this website: [https://shshagen.wikispaces.com/file/view/Activity\\_Reading\\_A\\_Pay\\_Stub.pdf](https://shshagen.wikispaces.com/file/view/Activity_Reading_A_Pay_Stub.pdf)

Scroll through the document to the last page which is a sample Pay Stub.

<p>What is the average salary per year for the job you have chosen?</p>	<p>Barista - \$22,260 Freelance Graphic Design - \$27,560</p>																		
<p>What is your <b>GROSS PAY</b> for a month ? (HINT: Take the amount you have found for the average salary of the job you have chosen, and divide it by twelve.) What is your bi-weekly <b>GROSS PAY</b>? ANSWER HERE-----&gt;</p>	<p>Gross pay for a month is \$4,151, with about \$1,855 coming from the coffee shop and \$2,296 from commissions. Bi-weekly gross pay is approximately \$1,148.</p>																		
<p>Look at the sample pay stub, the government will remove money from each paycheck for the following things: Social Security, Medicare, Federal Taxes, State Taxes, and City taxes. Use the sample check to determine what percentage of the gross pay goes to the government in each category:</p> <p>Social Security Medicare Federal Taxes State Taxes City Taxes</p>	<p>Now, take your Gross pay for Two Weeks, and figure out what amounts you will have to pay for each of the categories:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1060 597 1969 1269"> <tr> <td><b>Social Security</b></td> <td>Gross X Percentage= (0.06)</td> <td>\$68.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Medicare</b></td> <td>Gross X Percentage= (0.014)</td> <td>\$16.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Federal Taxes</b></td> <td>Gross X Percentage= (.13)</td> <td>\$149.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>State Taxes</b></td> <td>Gross X Percentage= (0.03)</td> <td>\$34.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>City Taxes</b></td> <td>Gross X Percentage= (0.02)</td> <td>\$22.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Total amount removed by the Government=</b> (Hint: add up all of the totals given in the right column)</td> <td>\$291.59</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Social Security</b>	Gross X Percentage= (0.06)	\$68.88	<b>Medicare</b>	Gross X Percentage= (0.014)	\$16.07	<b>Federal Taxes</b>	Gross X Percentage= (.13)	\$149.24	<b>State Taxes</b>	Gross X Percentage= (0.03)	\$34.44	<b>City Taxes</b>	Gross X Percentage= (0.02)	\$22.96	<b>Total amount removed by the Government=</b> (Hint: add up all of the totals given in the right column)		\$291.59
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<p>What is your <b>NET PAY</b> for a month in the job you have chosen? (HINT= Gross Pay - Total amount removed by Gov.=) ----- &gt; What is your <b>NET PAY</b> bi-weekly?</p>	<p>\$3860 a month. \$1930 every two weeks.</p>																		

**TASK 2: Find a Place to Live**

A. Are you going to live alone or are you going to have a roommate(s)? **Alone.**

B. Use the following websites to find a place to live. Copy and paste the link to the place you have chosen.

- <http://www.apartmentfinder.com/>
- <http://www.realtor.com/>
- <http://www.rent.com/>
- <http://www.apartmentguide.com/>

What is the monthly rent?  
 \$630  
 2836 E 130TH ST #2  
<https://www.apartmentguide.com/apartments/Ohio/Cleveland/2836-E-130th-St-2/4256906/>  
<https://www.apartments.com/crandell-park-apartments-cleveland-oh/mp5r8jj/>

What is included in the rent? (utilities, cable, water?)  
 - 1 bed, 1 bath  
 - 620 sq feet  
 - air conditioning  
 - heating

What are the amenities of the place you have chosen? (swimming pool, fitness center, etc.?)  
 - garage and outdoor parking

What are 3 “must haves” for your living space?  
 - full kitchen  
 - walkable area  
 - windows for my plants  
 - hardwood flooring (no gross carpet)

C. Write a paragraph in which you explain why you have chosen to live in this particular place.

The area has a 84% walkability score, which is great because I walk everywhere. Grocery stores, restaurants, shopping centers, etc are a reasonable distance away on foot. The interior is plain enough that I could organize everything in whatever way I choose. It has white walls, there is hardwood flooring, the doorway arches are pretty, and there is lots of natural lighting. I also like that the main living area is separate from the bedroom. There is an abundance of windows to put plants in. While it is not the best kitchen layout, there is a sizable fridge and a functional oven.

**D. RENTER'S CONTRACT ACTIVITY**

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to the following website: <http://communityrentals.ucsc.edu/pdf/rental-agreement-month-to-month.pdf> This is a sample renter's contract.
2. Read through the contract.
3. Answer the following questions:

QUESTIONS	YOUR RESPONSES
1. What types of information are on the first page?	The first page has information about payment and procedures in the case of failure to pay rent. It also talks about occupancy and what is or is not allowed in/on the property.
2. On Page 2 in section 6. MAINTENANCE OF THE RENTAL PROPERTY, what are the OWNER'S/AGENT'S DUTIES?	The owner's duties are centered around keeping the property safe for living. Such responsibilities include fixing the plumbing when needed, keeping adequate heating and lighting fixtures, running water, and weather/waterproofing the exterior.
3. On Page 2 in section 6. MAINTENANCE OF THE RENTAL PROPERTY, what are the RENTER'S DUTIES?	Responsibilities as a renter include maintaining cleanliness in the space, maintaining original condition, being respectful of quiet hours, and following general rules.
4. On Page 2 and 3 in section 7. PRIVACY, why would something like this be included in a rental contract?	Something like this would be included to ensure no maintenance people or landlords can enter your home without prior notice or permission.
5. On Page 3 in section G) RETALIATION RESTRICTIONS, what is the purpose of this section for a renter?	It is to ensure that renters can request necessary maintenance without fear of the landlord raising rent, evicting them, etc. A renter can withhold rent payments if the conditions are unsafe.
6. On Page 3, in the VACATE NOTICES section, how many days notice does the Renter or the Owner/Agent need to give in the event of a vacancy? When does this number of days change?	There must be 30 days of notice if the renter is ending their lease or if the owner intends to evict them. If the renter has lived there for over a year, 60 days notice from the owner is necessary.

**TASK 3: Cost of Living 100 points**

### A. READING A BILL ACTIVITY

Go to the Following website:

[https://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/billingpayments/about\\_your\\_bill/bill-samples/the-illuminating-company-bill.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/billingpayments/about_your_bill/bill-samples/the-illuminating-company-bill.html)

Answer the following questions about the sample electric bill:

1. What type of information is contained on the bill in sections A & B?

Billing period, billing address, and the customer's name.

2. What is the purpose of the "Electric Usage Profile" information?

The usage profile is used to estimate billing based on electric history.

3. Why might your electric bill be higher during the winter and summer months?

Heating and air conditioning.

4. What information does box G tell you? What is the difference between an actual reading and an estimated reading?

Box G expresses electricity usage information during the billing period. It may be based on a meter reading, or an estimation considering your previous electric usage history.

5. In general, what information is contained on the second page of the bill?

The second page contains the terms, agreements, and any important information.

6. What do you do if you have questions about your bill or the charges?

Contact customer service.

### **B. Utilities Activity Continued:**

- Electricity

- Go to the following website: <http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2011/10/27/141766341/the-price-of-electricity-in-your-state>

- Scroll down and find OHIO.

1. What is the price per kilowatt of electricity? \$11.20

- Go to the following website: <http://insideenergy.org/2014/05/22/using-energy-how-much-electricity-do-you-use-each-month/>
- Scroll down to the Orange Bar Chart.
- Click on “Ohio” and the average kilowatt usage per month should pop up.
  2. What is the average kilowatt of usage per month? **901.30 kilowatts**
  3. What is the average price for electricity per month (multiple the average number of kilowatts and the price per kilowatt to get the total) **\$104.94**
- Cable/Internet and/or Streaming Services
  - Go to the following website: <https://www.timewarnercable.com/en/residential.html>
  - Click on “plans and packages”
  - Choose a plan that includes cable and internet. If you want a home phone, you can choose that as well.
    1. What plan are you interested in? What are the specifications of the plan you have chosen? **Free modem and internet speeds of 100 mb/s.**
    2. How much are you going to pay for cable and internet per month? **\$29.99**
    3. If you are not getting cable but are using streaming services, what are they and what is the cost for each one per month? List below.
- Water
  - Go to the following website: <http://www.clevelandwater.com/customer-service/water-rates/rates-fees>
    1. Assume that you have a 5/8" to 1" meter size. What is the price for this size meter in 2022? **\$9.20**
  - Next, click on “Determine Your Water Rate Zone” to figure out which zone you are in.
  - Once you know which zone you are in. (Hint: Fairview Park is in “1st High”)
    2. What is the price for water up to 0.6 MCF in the zone in which you will “live”? **\$48.28**
    3. Add the meter size rate to the price of 0.6 MCF of water to get the total you pay per month. **\$57.48**

C. Fill in the cost for a month of each, and add up the total you will pay for utilities in a month in your new place:

Electric	<b>\$57.48</b>
Cable/ Internet/ Streaming Services	<b>\$29.99</b>
Water	<b>\$104.94</b>

TOTAL

\$192.41

**D. Writing a Check Activity:** Use the Sample Checks to complete this activity

- For each of your bills every month, you will need to write a check (or do online bill pay, but that is for another time).
- You are given two sample checks, write one to “The Illuminating Company” and one to “Cleveland Regional Water.”

**E. Buy Food for a week**

You are moving into your new place. Someone who loves you dearly has given you a \$500 gift card to Giant Eagle. You need to stock your new apartment with food, cleaning supplies, bathroom amenities, and whatever else you think you may need. Go to the following website and go shopping. List the items you are buying. You can spend over the \$500 gift card, but the rest comes out of your pocket. Knowing full well that you will not spend this much every time you go to the store. Estimate a bi-weekly budget for a trip to the grocery store.

<https://www.gianteagle.com/>

## Grocery List:

bi-weekly food stuff → \$89.87

- chocolate tahini
- peanut butter
- firm tofu (2 packs)
- cauliflower
- canned coconut milk
- strawberries (2 packs)
- raspberries
- zucchini (2)
- bananas (6)
- yellow onion
- red onion
- bell peppers (3-pack)
- green onions (2 bundles)
- califia oat milk
- amy's no cheese pizza
- plant based egg scramble
- portabella mushrooms
- white mushrooms

- lemons (2)
- fresh cilantro
- limes (2)
- wheat bread loaf
- double stuff oreos
- avocado plant butter

less frequently purchased food stuff → \$128.56

- olive oil
- balsamic vinegar
- grey poupon
- lipton black tea
- dried lavender
- bigelow earl grey
- cocoa powder
- tahini
- tomato paste
- russet potatoes (5lb)
- kikkoman soy sauce
- white rice (5lb)
- instant polenta
- spaghetti
- almond extract
- jelly
- cumin, paprika, garlic powder, salt
- corn starch
- panko bread crumbs
- oats
- granulated sugar
- self-rising flour
- dry activated yeast
- instant coffee
- baking soda
- maple syrup

less frequently purchased non-food stuff → \$83.65

- ogx conditioner
- ogx shampoo
- aveeno lavender body wash
- arm and hammer toothpaste
- lavender laundry pods
- mrs. meyers lavender soap refill (33 oz)
- lavender hand soap (12.5)
- toilet paper
- paper towels
- dish soap
- multi-purpose cleaner

Food: \$89.87 on food for two weeks, \$128.57 to stock the cabinets

Cleaning Supplies: \$56.49

Health & Beauty: \$27.16

MISC: n/a

TOTAL: total spent of the gift card is \$309.09, but bi-weekly food is \$89.87

F. Were you surprised by the cost of everything and the amount you have to pay each month for living expenses?

Not particularly.

Total Monthly Expenses: (including utilities and food for a month, if you went over the \$500)

192.41 utilities + 89.87 for food

#### TASK 4: Other Expenses

##### A. GAS/Transportation

Cost of Owning a Car

##### B. Clothing and Accessories

Think of the amount of money that clothing costs at your favorite stores. Figure out the amount of money you will spend in a month (based upon your current spending habits). Put the total cost you normally spend in a

Cost of the Car you want: \$20,730  
VW Beetle

Cost of Car Insurance:  
\$406 (for 6 months)  
\$67.67 /month

Weekly Cost of Gas: (figure this out by assuming that you have a 12 gallon tank. Research the average cost per gallon of gas in the Cleveland area and multiply that cost by 12 gallons) Take that number at multiply it by four.

Monthly Cost of Gas: \$209.96

14.5 gallon tank  
\$3.51 gas in Cleveland

Monthly Cost for Owning a Car: (add up all of the above amounts to figure out the monthly amount)

\$203.58 for gas  
\$67.67 a month

-----  
\$271.25 a month not  
including the car payments

month on clothing, shoes, accessories, makeup, phone apps, video games, cell phone bill, and/or any other items you usually purchase throughout the month. You may not normally spend this every month, but for the purpose of this project, give an estimate.

- \$35 a month cellular/phone bill
- \$24 thrifting stuff (teacups and clothes usually)
- \$30 a month on CDs and/or records
- \$10 a month on flowers

**C. ENTERTAINMENT**

Find at least two things to do for each week (eight events overall). This can be anything from a sporting event, going to a movie, or even going out to dinner. Create the list and give the cost of each item. If you are going to eat out with friends, research the menu and the prices of the foods you would normally choose. Use specific places and costs.

Activity #1	Activity #2	Total Cost
WK 1 lunch at Cleveland Vegan (\$18)	thrift shopping (\$24)	\$42
WK 2 bubble tea (\$4.50)	concert or something (\$70)	\$74.50
WK 3 farmer's market (\$20)	Cleveland MOA (free)	\$20
WK 4 get coffee at a café (\$6)	go to the library (free)	\$6
TOTAL COST FOR THE MONTH (add up all of the totals)----->		\$142.50

**TASK 5: The BOTTOM LINE**

A. ADD UP YOUR TOTALS for the MONTH:

<b>Total Rent</b>	\$630
<b>Health Care</b>	\$55.48
<b>Electric</b>	\$100.94
<b>Cable/Internet</b>	\$29.99
<b>Water</b>	\$57.48
<b>Food for a Month</b>	\$89.87
<b>Transportation for a month</b>	\$236.15
<b>Clothing</b>	\$40

B. How did you do???

<b>NET EARNINGS for the month</b>	\$3,860
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES for the month</b>	\$1,382.41
<b>Enter in the amount after you subtract Total Expenses from Net Earnings.</b>	\$2,477.59

<b>Entertainment</b>	\$142.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH (It is okay if this shows a negative balance.)</b>	\$1,382.41

**C. Write at least two paragraphs in which you answer the following questions:** How did you do for the month? Did you make it? If not, can you do something to improve your situation? Could you find a better job? A cheaper apartment? Use coupons? Spend less money on entertainment? [Asking your parents to help you pay for things is an unacceptable answer.] What if you had money left over at the end of a month? What would you do with it?

I think that I did well for the month. Since this is a hypothetical project, there were a lot of expenses included that I would not actually be paying. For instance, I plan on living in a walkable area and getting a bicycle/RTA pass, so I would not be paying for car insurance or gas. I also doubt that I would spend \$142.50 a month on entertainment. This only adds to my positive balance.

As for the leftover money, I would save it for four months and deposit it into a savings account with a good interest rate. That would be close to \$10,000 making around 156 in interest a year. From that point I would continue saving at least 85% of the money each month. This portion of my earnings each month would provide some reassurance incase of emergency or could be used as a down payment for a future purchase. The other 15% would go towards traveling, furnishing my apartment, getting a cat (?), buying plants, going to concerts, etc.

**D. Answer the following:**

List 3 unexpected “snags” that may arise during the month that could cut into your budget. How much would each cut into it?

- Appendicitis. The portion of my earnings that I save each month, around \$2105, would cover an emergency appendectomy in most cases.
- Mealy bugs infest my plants. Neem oil is about fifteen dollars and I would budget an additional \$40 to replace plants that could not be salvaged.
- Somebody steals my bike. I can buy another bike for under \$200.

**TASK 6: Final Reflection**

**FINAL REFLECTION [WRITE FIVE (5) paragraphs in response to the following questions]:** What did you learn about future living from this assignment? What is your main “take away” from this assignment? [This essay should be a normal five paragraph essay in which you have an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion]