Budget Game

Purpose
Managing money means making choices. These choices will be made from a wide variety of influence – including needs, wants and preferences. However, there is never enough money for all the things we'd like. This game will help you decide what is most important to you and how your values influence your money management

How to Play

Congratulations, you have just started your first job. It is exciting to finally have money, but you want to spend it wisely so you must decide first where you are going to spend it.

Round #1 Budgeting
Today, you have a 20 Square income. Look at all the categories in *The Budget Game*. Each item has a set number of squares which must be marked in order to select that item. First, you must select one item in each of the categories with the gold stars (Food, Housing, Furnishings, Transportation, Insurance and Clothing & Laundry). Once you have finished selecting items in the required categories, continue selecting other items until you have used up your 20 square income.

Round #1 Discussion Questions
Compare your spending choices to those of other players. What did you spend your money on? How do your values, goals, and past experiences affect your spending choices? What did you learn about yourself?

Round #2 Re-Budgeting
Your income has just been cut to 13 Squares due to being laid off. What will you change or give up? Erase to remove some selections and mark your new ones. Make the changes until you have marked only 13 squares. Compare your budget-cutting decisions with other players. Why did you make a different choice?

Housing with utilities

a. live with relatives (board) ☐ ☐

b. share apartment or house with others, including utilities (no phone) ☐ ☐ ☐
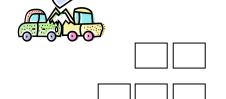
c. rent place of your own, including basic utilities (no phone) ☐ ☐ ☐ / ☐ ☐ ☐

Insurance

Auto
a. liability coverage only ☐ ☐

b. complete coverage ☐ ☐ ☐

Renters
a. property and liability coverage ☐

"The art is not in making money, but in keeping it"
-Unknown

Communications

a. no phone **No cost**

b cell phone ☐

c. cell phone with unlimited text ☐ ☐

d. high speed internet ☐

Savings

a. change in piggy bank **No cost**

b. ten percent of income ☐ ☐

c. invest for retirement ☐ ☐

d. contributing to charities ☐

Furnishings

a. borrow from relatives or friends **No cost**

b. rent furniture or live in furnished apartment ☐

c. buy at a garage sale or thrift shop ☐

d. buy new furniture ☐ ☐ ☐

Recreation

a. hiking, walking, visiting friends or library **No cost**

b. TV, snacks, picnics, driving around ☐

c. cable TV, sports and movies ☐

d. hobbies ☐

e. CDs/music, books, DVDs, iTunes ☐

f. concerts, vacations & spectator sports ☐ ☐

Gold Stars denote required categories.

Food

a. cook at home; dinner out once a week ☐ ☐ ☐

b. frequent fast food lunches and weekly dinner out; cook other meals at home ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

c. all meals away from home ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Transportation

a. walk or bike **No cost**

b. ride bus ☐

For options c to e must also select **insurance**

c. buy fuel for family car ☐ ☐

d. buy used car and fuel ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

e. buy new car and fuel ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Personal care

a. basic products such as soap, shampoo, tooth-paste, make-up, etc. ☐

b. haircuts, selected personal care products ☐

c. hair styled, name brand personal care products ☐ ☐

Gold Stars denote required categories.

Clothing & Laundry

Clothing
a. wear present wardrobe **No cost**

b. use your sewing skills ☐

c. buy at a discount store, thrift shop or used clothing store ☐

d. buy at a department store ☐ ☐

e. shop for designer clothes ☐ ☐ ☐

Laundry
a. do laundry at parents **No cost**

b. use laundromat; some dry cleaning ☐

c. rent or purchase washer and dryer ☐ ☐

Other

a. books or other items purchased on installment plan ☐

b. purchase cards and small gifts on special occasions ☐

c. new TV, DVD player or iPod ☐ ☐

d. New Computer/Stereo ☐ ☐

Average Expenditure Breakdown for Total Household Income

30%	Housing
18%	Transportation
16%	Food
8%	Charity / Misc.
5%	Clothing
5%	Medical
5%	Recreation
5%	Utilities
4%	Savings
4%	Other Debts