

REALITY PROJECT PORTFOLIO

INTRODUCTION

It is one week after graduation and your parents have left the country for six months. Your parents' house and entire furniture have been leased to a foreign family that does not speak English. You are excited and nervous because you will be unable to contact them or any of your relatives. You are on your own with no help from ANYONE (not even grandma!)
"Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, I am free at last!"

Unfortunately due to your parents' absence, you will need a place to live for the next six months. You are **required** to stay the entire six months. You each have \$400 in savings to bring into a living arrangement. In order to pay for living expenses, you will need to pick an hourly wage from Mrs. White, or use your current hourly wage once proof has been provided (i.e. pay stub). Wages selected in class are based upon average starting wages for Arizona high school graduates with no college education (wages based upon research gathered from previous activity).

The objective of this project is to experience the reality of living on your own along with the unexpected predicaments of daily life. Should you encounter any medical needs or expenses, don't fret because good ol' Mom and Dad are still paying for your insurance.

You will be required to complete a variety of assignments throughout this project. Assignments will be submitted and graded **BEFORE** they are placed in the binder. *Keep all original work with grades to be submitted in the Reality Project binder at the end of the semester.*

The requirements for the project are subject to change. All changes will be discussed and implemented during class.

REALITY PROJECT PORTFOLIO



Individual Reality Project Binder (2" 3-ring binder with dividers):

- Notes/Handouts (given in class)
- Activities (Living Arrangements, Budget worksheets, etc.)
- Journals (if group work, photocopy of rubric acceptable)
- Monthly Calendar
- Weekly Registers
- Monthly Budgets (Estimated and Actual)
- Paychecks



Group PowerPoint Presentation



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Directions: Open a blank word document and answer the following in complete sentences. Be sure to provide enough information in order to demonstrate your understanding. The documentation for this project will vary from group to group depending on the location and type of housing chosen to complete this project.

Nonetheless, any and all documented information that is used in consideration to a decision must be included. **You must provide a signed document (brochure, etc.) for the rental property verifying your rental expense** (photocopies are accepted). **Each roommate must submit his or her own work** (not a copy of the same paper 2-3 times).

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. Explain **why** you chose your roommates that you would be living with (financial, compatibility, etc.) and **who** they are.
2. Explain **where and why** you determine to lease a house, condo, or apartment. (Be sure to include a brochure or Internet printout showing apartment/condo/house amenities)
3. Write the items each roommate will be bringing into the living quarters.

Furniture

Televisions, couch, bed,
VCR, stereo, microwave,
Toaster, computer, etc.

Pets

Cats, dogs, birds, fish,
Etc.

Transportation

Car, bike, scooter, etc.

4. Explain **how and why** you and your roommate(s) determined individual living arrangements (i.e.: master bedroom, covered parking, etc.) within the house, condo, or apartment.
 - Room assignments (master, etc.)
 - Parking assignment (covered, etc.)
5. Explain **how and why** you and your roommate(s) determined who would have what responsibilities pertaining to the management of the house, condo, or apartment.
 - Laundry
 - Dishes
 - Yard Work
 - House Cleaning
 - Cleaning Pool
 - Etc.



6. Explain **why** you and your roommate(s) determined **who**

would be liable for each bill, **whose** name each bill is under, **who** will pay each bill, and **how** will they be divided. **(Be sure to include proof of cost (Internet document; phone call including phone number, name of who you talked to, date, and cost - DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED - photocopies are acceptable.)**

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric | <input type="checkbox"/> Cable | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage Collection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite | <input type="checkbox"/> Etc. |

7. Explain **how** you and your roommate(s) determined the decor of your house, condo, or apartment.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Room deodorizers | <input type="checkbox"/> Posters/Pictures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who's TV goes where | <input type="checkbox"/> Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Etc. |



8. List your cost for each of the following:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Expense: | <input type="checkbox"/> Flexible Expense: | <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Expense: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Renter's Insurance <input type="radio"/> Rent <input type="radio"/> Car Payment <input type="radio"/> Car Insurance <input type="radio"/> Utilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Groceries <input type="radio"/> Phone (cell/home) <input type="radio"/> Internet <input type="radio"/> Satellite/Cable <input type="radio"/> Personal Care <input type="radio"/> Housing Costs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Entertainment <input type="radio"/> Clothing <input type="radio"/> Gifts <input type="radio"/> Savings |



JOURNALS

Journals will be assigned periodically throughout the year. All original, graded journals must be submitted within your binder in order to receive credit. **Although some journals will be completed as a group project, a photocopy of the graded journal must be submitted by EACH student.**

WEEKLY REGISTER, MONTHLY CALENDAR AND BUDGET

You will be responsible for providing the following: 1) a weekly register; 2) a monthly calendar; and 3) a monthly budget for your individual expenses based on your monthly income. Make sure that any updates to the spreadsheets are turned in as well. Consider the following:

WEEKLY REGISTER

Each person will be required to keep track of **one** register: It will include your Reality Project expenses (rent, utilities, weekly, random expenses, food, gas, clothing, entertainment, etc.) throughout each week. The weekly registers will be submitted each WEDNESDAY and must include your •Fixed expenses (rent, car payment, car insurance, etc.), your •Flexible expenses (cell phone, personal care, food, housing costs, etc.) and your •Discretionary expenses (entertainment, clothing, gifts, savings).

The objective is to provide an actual account of how your money is being spent as opposed to how you think your money is being dispersed. (Mrs. White will assist in the creation of your registers demonstrating how it should be designed) Consider the following:

- How much rent do you pay?
- How much are your utility payments?
- Do you have any pet expenses?
- How much do you pay to eat on a monthly basis?
- Do you have a car? How much do you spend in gas?
- How much is your car insurance?
- Do you take the bus? How much is each fare?
- How much do you spend in food? Are you buying individually or as a group?
- How much do you spend on entertainment (going out, boyfriend/ girlfriend, etc.)?
- How much does your personal care cost (toiletries, clothing, etc.)?
- Do you get bi-weekly manicures or pedicures?
- Do you get your hair colored/highlighted, etc.?
- Do you plan on taking classes during the next six months and if so, what are tuition costs?
- How much will you spend in housing-costs (for example: light bulbs, laundry detergent, Kleenex, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, etc.). Will these be purchased as a group or on an individual basis?
- How much was spent of gifts for others?
- Savings
- Other ... there are no limits!**



MONTHLY CALENDAR

In order to budget your money well, a Monthly Calendar will be individually created in Microsoft Word or Publisher and submitted at the **BEGINNING** of each month listing the specific day each Fixed, Flexible and Discretionary expense is due.

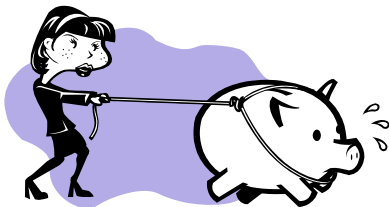
You must staple the Monthly Calendar and Estimated Monthly Budget together at the **BEGINNING** of each month.



MONTHLY BUDGET

An Estimated Monthly Budget will be individually completed using Microsoft Excel and submitted at the **BEGINNING** of each month. The Estimated Monthly Budget will include your Fixed, Flexible, and Discretionary expenses. At the *conclusion of each month*, an Actual Monthly Budget will be individually submitted giving actual expenses incurred.

At the end of each month, you must staple the graded Monthly Calendar, graded Estimated Monthly Budget, all graded registers dealing with that month, and the Actual Monthly Budget together.



GROUP POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

The amount of time presenting the PowerPoint must be equally distributed among roommates.

Your group will be responsible for constructing a PowerPoint presentation using the following parameters:

- 10-15 slides
- Actual Photos of roommates, apartment, outings, etc. (no less than five)
- Sound Effects (no less than three) or two different songs playing throughout
- Spacing (presentable and evenly balanced)
- Transitions (All should be the same except, if you would like, the title slide)
- Custom Animations/Effects (pictures cannot enter over existing text and text cannot enter from the left)
- Text Size must be large enough for everyone in the classroom to easily see
- SEE http://www.nicholls.edu/pt3/Hurricane/ppt_etiquette.htm for reference
- Originality and Creativity a must!!

** Extra Credit for personal video inserted into PowerPoint

CONTENT OF PRESENTATION

Group Component

- Discussion of living arrangements
- Discussion of teamwork

Individual Component

- Discussion of personal expenses
- Discussion of personal experiences **BOTH** positive and negative (i.e. What did you learn from this experience? What would you change about your experience? What could make it more appealing/realistic based? Etc.)

** **This is not a teacher evaluation**

OVERALL PRESENTATION

- Content (information provided)
- Evidence of practice (movement, voice, clarity, etc.)
- Creativity (props, dress, originality, etc.)
- Time (7-15 min.)

** **All** roommates should review PowerPoint for grade/presentation, before submitting to teacher/class.

