

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

INSTRUCTION

A System of Saving

What + Why: Take control of your paycheck by choosing your savings before your spending chooses you.

Saving works best when it is structured, not spontaneous. In this activity, you will examine how pre-deciding a goal, timeline, and contribution amount turns saving from wishful thinking into a reliable system that protects both financial goals and generosity.

**Instructions:**

1. Follow along and record your thinking as your teacher walks through the examples.
2. Then, answer the reflection questions.

Morgan wants to buy a \$495 smartwatch when it releases in 3 months. She earns \$800 per month.

- What does Morgan need to decide before she starts saving?
- If Morgan just says she'll try to save, what will likely happen?

Morgan's Savings Plan

Goal: \$495

Timeline: 3 months

Regular contribution amount: \$165 per month

Morgan's Monthly Budget

Income: \$800

- **Savings** (about 20% of income)
Smartwatch - \$165
- **Generosity** (about 2% of income)
Local disaster relief fund - \$15
- **Expenses** (about 28% of income)
Bus pass - \$70
Phone bill - \$60
Streaming subscriptions - \$80
Helping out at home - \$90
- **Personal/Miscellaneous** (about 50% of income)
Clothes - \$65
Outings with friends - \$100
Entertainment - \$75
Dining out - \$80

Reflection Questions:

1. Finish the sentence: "Saving works better when I _____,

rather than when I just _____."
2. What changed when Morgan decided her savings amount before spending?