

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ACTIVITY

Financially Me: Values-Based Spending Plan

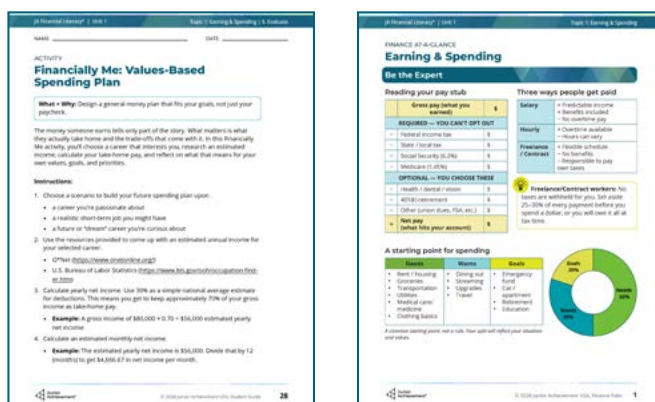
What + Why: Design a general money plan that fits your goals, not just your paycheck.

FinanceFolio Introduction

At some point, sooner than you think, you're going to be on your own financially. Rent, insurance, credit, retirement savings, debt—the decisions pile up fast and that transition to financial independence can be overwhelming. There's no one moment when everything clicks—it's really a series of decisions, big and small, that nobody fully prepares you for.

That's exactly what the FinanceFolio is designed to change.

Throughout this course, you're going to build a personalized financial resource—one concept at a time—that helps you hold onto what you learn, build on it, and actually use it when those decisions start showing up in real life. The FinanceFolio has two parts that work together—a growing collection of personal financial tools and resources and a thorough topic-by-topic reference that together can become a foundation to help shape your financial decision-making.



The first part of the FinanceFolio are the Financially Me activities. Each one produces something tangible—a personal financial plan, framework, or reflection grounded in your own life—that you work through as you learn the content, and add to your FinanceFolio as you go.

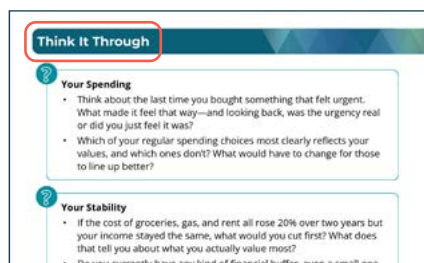
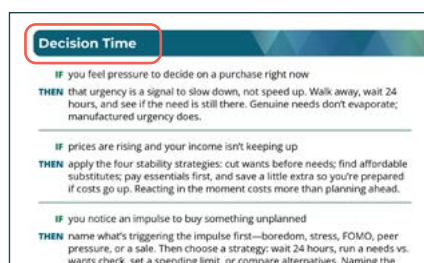
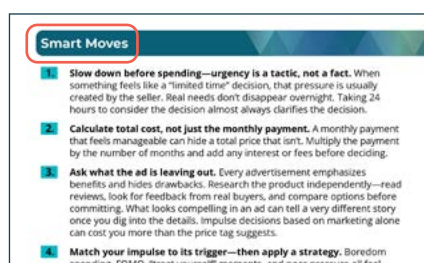
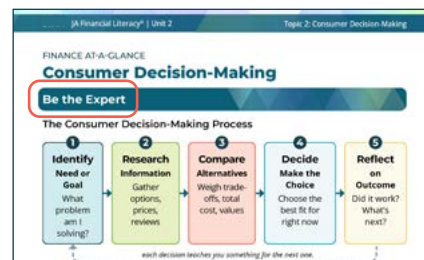
The second part is Finance at-a-Glance. At the end of every topic, your teacher will hand you a detailed reference document that captures the core concepts, strategies, and decision frameworks from that topic. These aren't just notes to stuff in a folder—they're organized around four sections designed to take you from understanding a financial concept or skill to actually being able to apply it.

- **Be the Expert** gives you the knowledge foundation—the concepts, data, and frameworks that separate someone who has heard of something from someone who actually gets it.
- **Smart Moves** translates that knowledge into specific, actionable habits—the strategies worth knowing before you need them. (And you will need them.)
- **Decision Time** gives you clear IF/THEN guidance for real financial situations—so when those moments come up in your life, you already have a framework. No guessing, no panic. Just a plan.
- **Think It Through** are prompts to consider how the financial concepts apply to individual decisions, goals, and priorities. Use these to turn financial knowledge into something that actually applies to life right now and life ahead.

At the end of each topic, you'll put your Financially Me activities together with your Finance at-a-Glance pages that your teacher gives you. Over the duration of the course, that collection becomes your complete FinanceFolio, one you'll put to work in the final Case Challenge. You become the focus of your final case study as you examine the personal financial work you've produced during the course to create a multi-year financial plan.

The financial decisions ahead of you are real. The FinanceFolio won't have all the answers, but it's a starting point to make sure you're never walking into those decisions empty-handed.

Put real thought into it as you go—this isn't busywork, it's a resource you're building for yourself.



Financially Me: Values-Based Spending Plan

The money someone earns tells only part of the story. What matters is what they actually take home and the trade-offs that come with it. In this Financially Me activity, you'll choose a career that interests you, research an estimated income, calculate your take-home pay, and reflect on what that means for your own values, goals, and priorities.

Instructions:

1. Choose a scenario to build your future spending plan upon.
 - a career you're passionate about
 - a realistic short-term job you might have
 - a future or "dream" career you're curious about
2. Use the resources provided to come up with an estimated annual income for your selected career.
 - O*Net (<https://www.onetonline.org/>)
 - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/occupation-finder.htm>)
3. Calculate yearly net income. Use 30% as a simple national average estimate for deductions. This means you get to keep approximately 70% of your gross income as take-home pay.
 - **Example:** A gross income of $\$80,000 \times 0.70 = \$56,000$ estimated yearly net income
4. Calculate an estimated monthly net income.
 - **Example:** The estimated yearly net income is \$56,000. Divide that by 12 (months) to get \$4,666.67 in net income per month.

(1) Potential Future Career:
(2) Estimated Annual Income:
(3) Calculated Yearly Net Income (average annual/gross income $\times$ 0.70 = estimated net income):
(4) Calculated Monthly Net Income (estimated net income $\div$ 12):

Next, think about what your calculated net income reveals about the financial trade-offs you might face in this career.

5. What income type does this career use (hourly, salary, or gig/contract), and what does that mean for how predictable your take-home pay would be month to month?

6. What is one trade-off you would face with this income type? (Consider stability vs. flexibility, predictable deductions vs. variable income, or the difference between the gross income and net income.)

7. What does this tell you about whether this career fits your values, goals, and priorities? Use your calculated net income as evidence in your response.

Submission:

Turn in your completed work as directed by your teacher.