

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ACTIVITY

Your Money, Your Move

What + Why: Think about what matters when it comes to jobs, pay, and planning ahead.

Different career paths lead to different paychecks, taxes, benefits, and lifestyles. In this culminating activity, you will step back and look at the entire case study as a whole to answer the **Case Question**:

- What choices help someone make the most of their earnings, from a first paycheck to a future career, so they can spend, save, and plan wisely?

Using evidence from all four topics, examine patterns across multiple career paths related to take-home pay, taxes, benefits, incentives, and total compensation. Then explain what those patterns mean for someone starting their working life.

Supporting Materials:

Profiles (Case Study)

Financial Snapshots (Case Study)

Pay Stubs (Case Study)

Benefits Summary (Case Study)

Your Money, Your Move Rubric

Instructions:

1. Choose one of the three presentation formats to answer the Case Question about earning, planning, and decision-making over time:
 - **Profile Comparison Scorecard:** Create a scorecard comparing all five profiles across four categories: income, taxes, benefits, and lifestyle fit. Then write the following reflection: “Whose life would I want, or how would I combine their financial strategies to build my own?”
 - **My First Job Offer:** Design a dream (or realistic) job offer including salary, taxes, and benefits for one of the case study profiles and write a short justification for why they’d accept or decline it, and how it would offer strong long-term financial stability.
 - **Mock Podcast Episode:** Record a 3–5 minute podcast called “Money Moves: Lessons from the Reunion” where each case study profile shares:
 - Their biggest financial insight
 - The job benefit or perk that most influences their life
 - Their personal earning/spending strategy going forward
2. Regardless of what option you choose, use the rubric to help guide your work. Strong work will:
 - Use **specific evidence** from the case study materials, including at least one numeric value (salary, deduction, employer contribution, or cost difference).
 - Explain how income, taxes, and benefits **interact** to affect take-home pay and financial outcomes.
 - Distinguish between **monetary and non-monetary benefits**, including employer-paid contributions when relevant.
 - Analyze **incentives and trade-offs** behind each profile’s financial decisions.
 - Explain at least one **long-term impact** (stability, savings, opportunity, or risk) connected to those decisions.
3. Create your presentation in the format required for your chosen option, using clear examples from multiple profiles and documents to explain your reasoning.

Submission:

Turn in your completed work to your teacher.

Your Money, Your Move Rubric

Criteria	4 – Strong	3 – Proficient	2 – Developing	1 – Beginning
Use of Case Evidence and Numbers	Accurately integrates evidence from case study materials, including at least one accurate numeric value, to support the artifact.	Uses clearly relevant evidence from the case study materials to support most explanations.	Uses limited or unclear evidence; numbers may be missing, vague, or weakly connected.	Uses little or no relevant evidence from the case study materials.
Income, Taxes, and Benefits	Analyzes how differences in income, taxes, deductions, and benefits work together to shape financial outcomes and trade-offs.	Explains how income, taxes, deductions, and benefits affect take-home pay or financial outcomes.	Identifies some parts of income, taxes, deductions, or benefits, but explanations are incomplete or unclear.	Shows little understanding of how income, taxes, deductions, or benefits affect financial outcomes.
Education, Career Pathways, and Trade-Offs	Analyzes how education/training choices, incentives, and trade-offs affect opportunity, stability, flexibility, or risk over time.	Explains how education/training choices and trade-offs influence career options or financial stability.	Mentions education, training, or trade-offs, but connections to financial outcomes are weak.	Shows little connection between education/training choices, trade-offs, and financial outcomes.
Clarity and Completion	Artifact is complete, well organized, and clearly answers the Case Question with specific reasoning and examples.	Artifact is complete and organized, with explanations that mostly answer the Case Question.	Artifact includes most required parts, but some ideas are unclear, underdeveloped, or loosely connected.	Artifact is incomplete, hard to follow, or does not answer the Case Question.