

Your Life, Your Money

Answer the following on a separate sheet of paper.

Chapter 1: Making It, Keeping It.

- 1) What changes in his life made Russell Simmons want to know more about money and managing it?
- 2) What do you think Russell Simmons means when he says, “They have no idea what to do...they get into big trouble.” Why do we need to learn about money and finances?
- 3) Where do you currently go if you have a financial question?
- 4) How likely is it that a typical person will have wealth like Russell Simmons to manage? Should that be an excuse not to manage your own money wisely?
- 5) Does/Did your high school or college offer courses that would help you manage your money?

Chapter 2: Make Your Money Work For You

- 1) How did Min Lwin’s financial responsibilities change once he graduated from college?
- 2) Identify one wise economic decision that Min made in getting established on his own. Identify one economic mistake that he made in getting established on his own.
- 3) What is your thought process when making a purchase? Have you ever regretted a large purchase after you’ve made it? Explain.
- 4) Donald Faison said: “Keep track of everything you spend money on for at least two weeks.” Have you ever tried keeping track of your expenses for a period of time to see where your money goes? If so, what did you discover? If not, what do you suspect you might discover?
- 5) The title of this segment is: “Make Your Money Work for You.” A quote from the program stated: “The trick is to make your money work for you, and not the other way around.” What is meant by this?

Chapter 3: Digging Out of Debt

- 1) What is credit? Does everyone need credit? When is it advantageous to use credit? When is it not advantageous to use credit?
- 2) According to the chapter segment, “Digging out of Debt,” young people today often have significant debt. Why?
- 3) According to the segment, “Digging out of Debt,” how can you get yourself out of credit card debt?
- 4) What are the consequences of failure to keep up with loan payments or credit card payments?

Chapter 4 (part 1): Start Saving

- 1) What is the purpose of saving money? Why should you not spend all the money that you have at any point in time?

- 2) Why is it particularly important that D.Woods has a savings cushion?
- 3) A variety of ways of saving money, depending on your goals, are presented in the story segment, "Start Saving." Besides traditional bank savings accounts, what are some of the other savings options presented?
- 4) It is often said that you can never start saving early enough in your life. Why is that so?
- 5) What are some of the suggestions that financial expert Beth Koblner gives to D.Woods regarding controlling spending and increasing savings?

Chapter 4 (part 2): Saving for Retirement

- 1) In the story of Maria Cortez, financial expert Michelle Singletary says: "You should start saving for retirement the day you get your first job." When did Maria Cortez begin her retirement planning?
- 2) How are Maria's retirement savings options different from those of a person working for an employer?
- 3) Why are games of chance NOT a good investment for building wealth?
- 4) What role does financial education play in becoming a good saver and investor? What new areas of knowledge does Maria want in order to save for retirement?
- 5) What decisions and choices has Maria Cortez made in her life thus far to insure financial success and security?

Chapter 5: Get Insured

- 1) What changes in Rochelle James' life led her to become a skilled electrician?
- 2) What impact could declaring bankruptcy have on your financial future?
- 3) How does having dependents change your financial future and your financial choices?
- 4) What role does insurance play when faced with unpredictable developments in life?

Chapter 6: Do It Yourself

- 1) Why did Tim Bouchard decide to start his own business?
- 2) In the story segment, "Do It Yourself," Tim Bouchard said: "You can't make money without spending money." What are some costs of starting a business?
- 3) How has the nature of work changed over the past generation?
- 4) Why might it be easier today to start your own business?