

Mr. Martinez
Kennedy High School

Personal Budget Project

1. Determine what career you would like to pursue.

2. Go to www.bls.gov/oco and look at the projections for this career. This career must be in demand or projected to grow by the time you finished all the education and training required for an entry level job in this career. Take note of the average annual salary for a specific job in your chosen career field. If available, you may choose the salary for your chosen job in a specific state where you want to live or move after completing all education or training needed for this job. You have to explain where you will be living (State and city) as well as

3. Open a spreadsheet application (such as MS Excel). If you are using MS Excel, use the attached Personal Monthly Budget Template. If not, you may recreate the attached template.

4. Save the template LastName_FirstName_Period#_PersonalBudget).

5. Insert a formula for the following items in your spreadsheet:

a. Income – must be monthly

b. Total Monthly Income

c. Total Monthly Expenses

d. Budget Balance (what is left of your income after all expenses)

e. Sub Totals for each budget group

6. Enter the amount of money you would like to spend for each item in your budget.

7. Use the internet to search for tax deductions tables or tax information to determine how much Federal and State tax you will pay at your current income rate. You need to figure out the if there is a state income tax in the state you decide to live in (California has a state income tax but Nevada does not)

8. Use the internet to find current housing cost, car payments, utilities or other items that you are not familiar with in your area. **Keep all the research on a word document by copying and pasting the information, to show where you got the numbers from.**

9. Upon completion of the budget, create a pie chart, as a separate object, to determine if your budget follows the recommended spending formula by [Glinda Bridgforth](#) (35% housing, 15%

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transportation, 10% savings, 15% debt, 25% other living expenses). The breakdown of your pie chart will not be the same, and it does not have to be the same at the beginning. We have to make some adjustments to our budget to make it happen.



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10. Prepare a cover sheet for your project with the following information:

- a. Your name
- b. Period#
- c. Teachers Name
- d. What Career and Specific Job are you looking into?
- e. Describe the nature of this job including the projection for this job. Be specific, at what rate is it expected to grow etc.
- f. What is the average annual salary for this job?
- g. If applicable, name the state where you plan to live in.

11. on a separate sheet:

Based on how your Pie chart looks like, please do the following:

- a. Write a narrative of which item will you change in your budget to meet the recommended spending formula. Be specific. For example: "My current housing expense is 45% of my budget, therefore, I need to cut it by 10%. This means I need to reduce the cost of my housing bill from X amount to Y amount."
- b. If you have a positive budget balance, what do you plan to do with this amount? Explain your rationale. (A positive budget balance means that you have some more money to spend!)
- c. If you have a negative budget balance, what does this mean? What will you do with this issue in your budget? Explain the rationale behind your decision.
- d. Based on your research, write about the taxes that you have to pay in your income bracket. Is it fair? Why is it that each person pays a different percentage of taxes based on their earnings?

12. On a separate sheet, reference all the websites you used in completing this project.