

# Simple Savings Strategies

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 9, 10, 11, 12

## ≡ RELATED ARTICLES:

- [“Why It Pays to Save: Knowing the Time Value of Money”](#)
- [“Opening a Bank Account: Be the Boss of Your Own Money”](#)
- [“Educator Toolkit: Financial Literacy”](#)
- [“Conquering the Negative Bank Balance”](#)
- [“A Trip to the Bank, Lollipops and World Savings Day”](#)
- [“5 Truths about Money During the Pandemic”](#)

**JUMP\$TART NATIONAL STANDARD:** Spending and Saving, Standard 1

**CEE NATIONAL STANDARD:** Saving, Benchmark 4, Standard 5

**CONTENT STATEMENT:** Develop a plan for spending and saving.

**ESTIMATED TIME:** 50 minutes

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Projector; Internet; Permission to use the America Saves Pledge; Each student needs a working email address; [BehaviorBasedSavingsStrategies](#); [Simple Savings Vocab Powerpoint](#) (included); [Simple Saving Strategies – Activity Guide](#)

**KEY VOCABULARY/TERMS:** Saving, Savings Account, Direct Deposit

**WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU NOW:** Saving is a habit that should be developed early in life, and savings can be used to buy things you want in the near future, such as an automobile.

1. Students are to explore the FINRA [“Financial Capability in the United States 2016”](#) for survey findings and note the following:

- Percent of Americans who spent more than their income
- Percent of respondents from your state who spent more than their income
- Percent of Americans who have a “rainy day” fund
- Percent of respondents from your state who have a “rainy day” fund

The teacher facilitates a short classroom discussion. Students share their findings and also discuss the consequences of inadequate savings.

2. Using the Behavior Based Savings Strategies PowerPoint as a guide, the teacher shares behavior based saving strategies that are simple to apply.
3. Direct students to the [America Saves Pledge](#).
  1. The pledge requires students to establish a savings goal, a savings plan, and provide an email address that can be used to send timely savings reminders and resources. The pledge also includes the option of receiving text message reminders (nudges) of savings tips and advice.
4. Students review the tools and techniques sent in the email that follows completing the pledge.
5. Assessment: Students write a 100 word reflection of how developing the habit of saving now can improve their lives today and in the future, and also note the tools and techniques they plan to use that can help them reach their goal.
  1. Option: Require students to submit evidence they have received the email that follows completing the pledge.

**HOMEWORK / FURTHER EXPLORATION:** Explore the Wharton Global Youth Program business journal profiles on [personal-finance champions](#) from around the world, featured in the past few years during Financial Literacy Month in the U.S. Choose one (you can research them in the Related WGYP Stories tab accompanying the above link), and reflect on his or her story in the commenting section of the article. Please note that students must take a moment to become [registered WGYP users](#) in order to comment. It’s free, harmless and quick!

**OPTIONAL:** Use the Vocab PowerPoint to review key vocabulary terms with students.

Research supporting the effectiveness of using applied learning and behavior based savings strategies:

- Karlan, Dean, Margaret McConnell, Sendhil Mullainathan, and Jonathan Zinman. “Getting to the Top of the Mind: How Reminders Increase Saving.” Getting to the Top of

the Mind: How Reminders Increase Saving. Innovations for Poverty Action, 28 Oct. 2014. Web. 14 Apr. 2016. <<http://www.poverty-action.org/publication/getting-top-mind-how-reminders-increase-saving>>.

- Harrison, Lyn. "What Is Applied Learning?": Exploring Understandings of Applied Learning amongst Beginning Teachers. Rep. Web. 14 Apr. 2016. <<http://dro.deakin.edu.au/eserv/DU:30007994/harrison-whatisappliedlearning-2006.pdf>>.

*Note – this lesson is designed to teach students savings strategies to reach short-term goals or set aside money for emergencies. We also encourage you to check out this companion lesson plan on [savings strategies](#) for other resources to support your discussions.*

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