Responsible Debt & Credit Management

Module 6

Created By: NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Here are the key points we will cover in Module 6:

1. Basics of Borrowing
2. Credit Scores & Reports
3. Credit Cards + Paying More than the Minimum
4. Getting Out of Debt
5. Predatory Lending

01

Basics of Borrowing

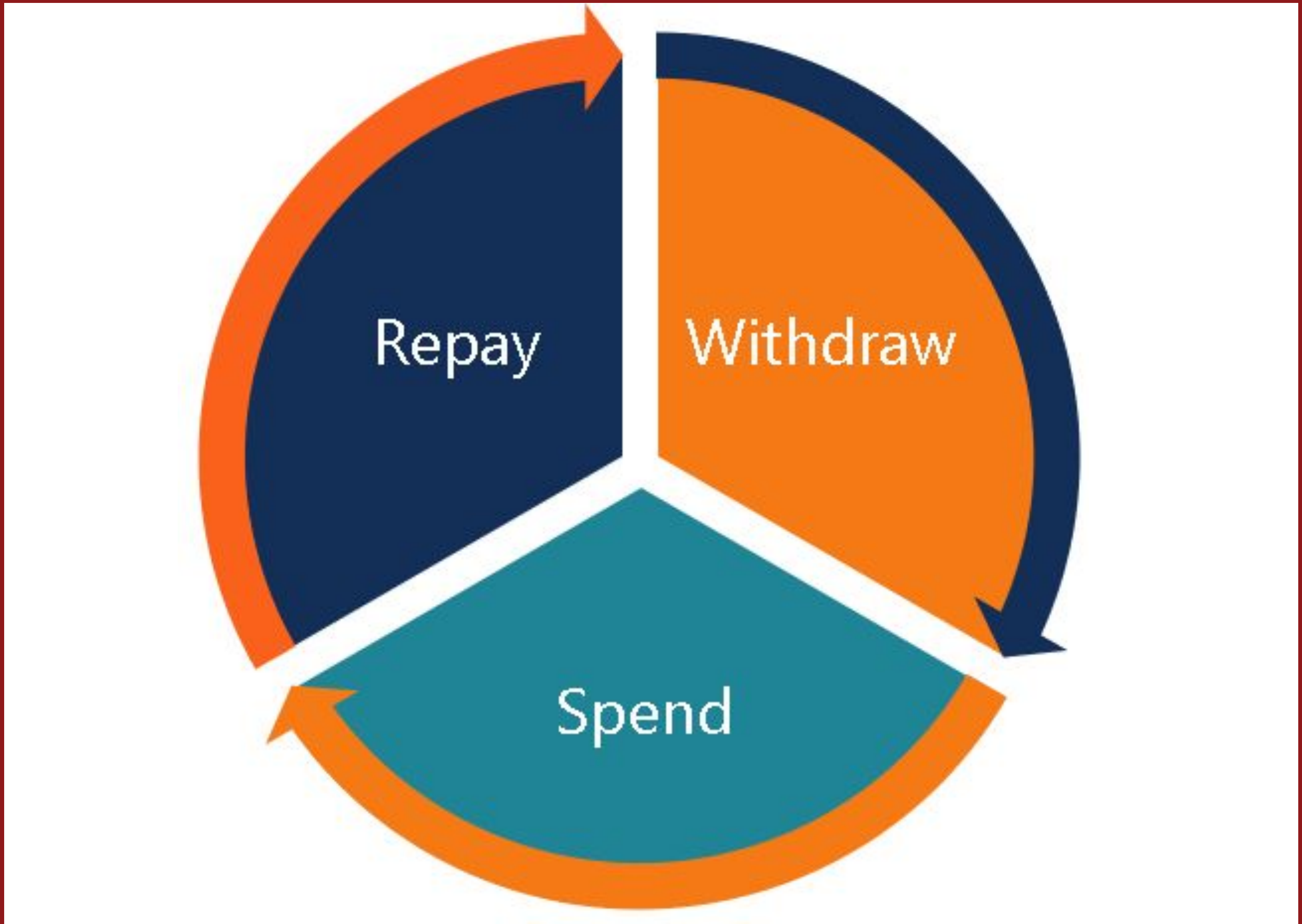
All things credit types, loan basics, importance of paying more than the minimum, and ways to prevent late payments.

What is Credit?

Credit enables people to purchase goods or services using borrowed money. The lender expects to receive the payment back with extra money (called interest) after a certain amount of time.

There are three main types of credit: revolving credit, installment loans, and open credit.

Revolving Credit



A line of credit is one type of credit that comes with a capped limit and can be used up until you reach the predetermined threshold. It may include regular minimum payments, but usually, there is not a fixed repayment schedule.

Ex: a credit card as there is a capped limit, and you can keep using it until you reach the limit. Another example is a retail card.

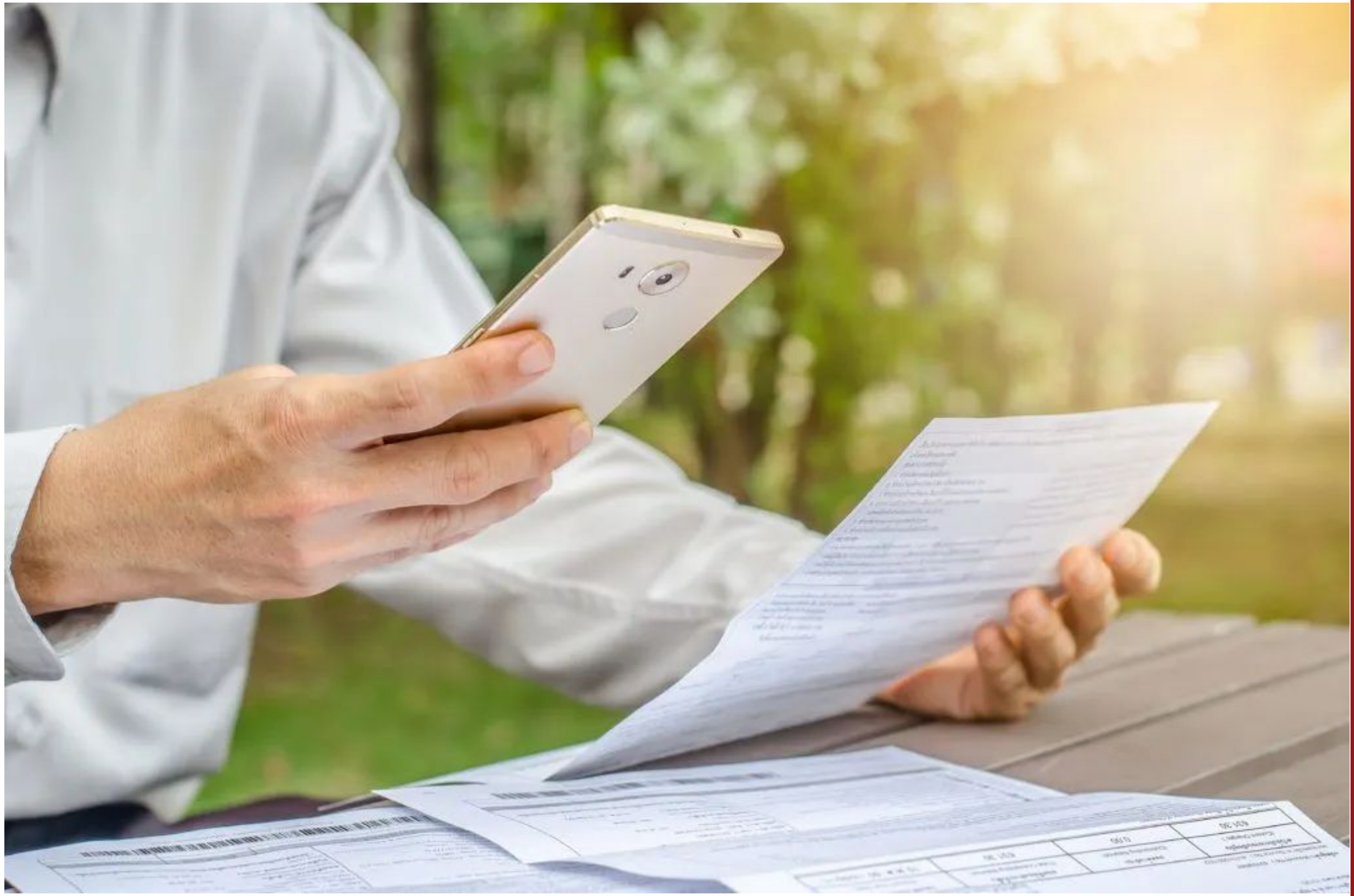
Installment

Installment loans are another type that includes a fixed payment schedule for a specified duration.

Ex: a car loan – you are required to pay a set amount of money at a recurring interval ($280 per month) until the loan is paid off in full.

Other examples include mortgages, student loans, and term loans

Open Credit



Requires full payment for each period, such as per month. You can borrow up to a maximum amount, similar to a credit card limit, but you are required to pay the funds borrowed in full at the end of each period.

Ex: cell phone bill or utility bill

Where to get Consumer Credit & Loans?

A bank is not your only option.

Consider these options:

- Commercial Banks
- Consumer Finance Companies
- Credit Unions
- Savings and Loan Associations
- Sales Finance Companies
- Life Insurance Companies
- Friends and Relatives

What’s My Net Worth?

This resource and questions are from NGPF’s Lesson Intro to Credit

Many people think that being wealthy means you have a lot of stuff; however, it turns out that what you own is only part of the equation for determining your net worth. Review the infographic to the left to see how wealth or net worth (often used as synonyms) is calculated.

Answer the questions on the following slide.

Thinking Prompts

1. Your friends and you notice a neighbor who always has brand new clothes, shoes, and electronics. What would you need to know in order to tell if this neighbor is actually wealthy?
2. There's not one target net worth value that is universally considered to be "rich" or "wealthy." But right now, Sanya's net worth is $12,000. Her goal is to have a net worth of at least $100,000 before she turns 35. What is one way that using credit could hurt Sanya's progress?

Loan Basics

Perhaps you've casually lent or borrowed money from a friend before. But more formal loan arrangements from a financial institution come with far more terms you must understand in order to get a fair deal.

Watch this **Edpuzzle** and answer the questions throughout.

This resource and questions are from NGPF's Lesson Intro to Credit

Unsecured vs. Secured Loans

Loans, including personal loans, usually come in two types: secured and unsecured.

Understanding the difference is important so you can choose the option that works best for your situation.

On the next slides, we'll explore the advantages and disadvantages of each type.

Secured Loans

To get this, you offer something you own as collateral. If you default on the loan, your lender gets to take the collateral. In the case of a mortgage or auto loan, hour house or car is typically the collateral.

They typically have lower interest rates than unsecured loans since they are less risky. For example you may be able to get a Wells Fargo personal loan with a possible APR of under 6%, depending on the term length, amount borrowed and your credit history.

Unsecured Loans

This loan doesn't require you to put up any collateral. If you don't repay it, you risk your credit. Lower credit scores make it more difficult to get approved for other types of credit.

Interest rates are typically higher and these loans are viewed as more risky for a lender.

Make sure to shop around to select the best loan for you. Rates and terms can vary substantially, so you want to save yourself money as much as possible.

Missing an Unsecured Loan Payment

Failing to pay unsecured loans impacts 35% of a person's credit score. It can also affect other areas.

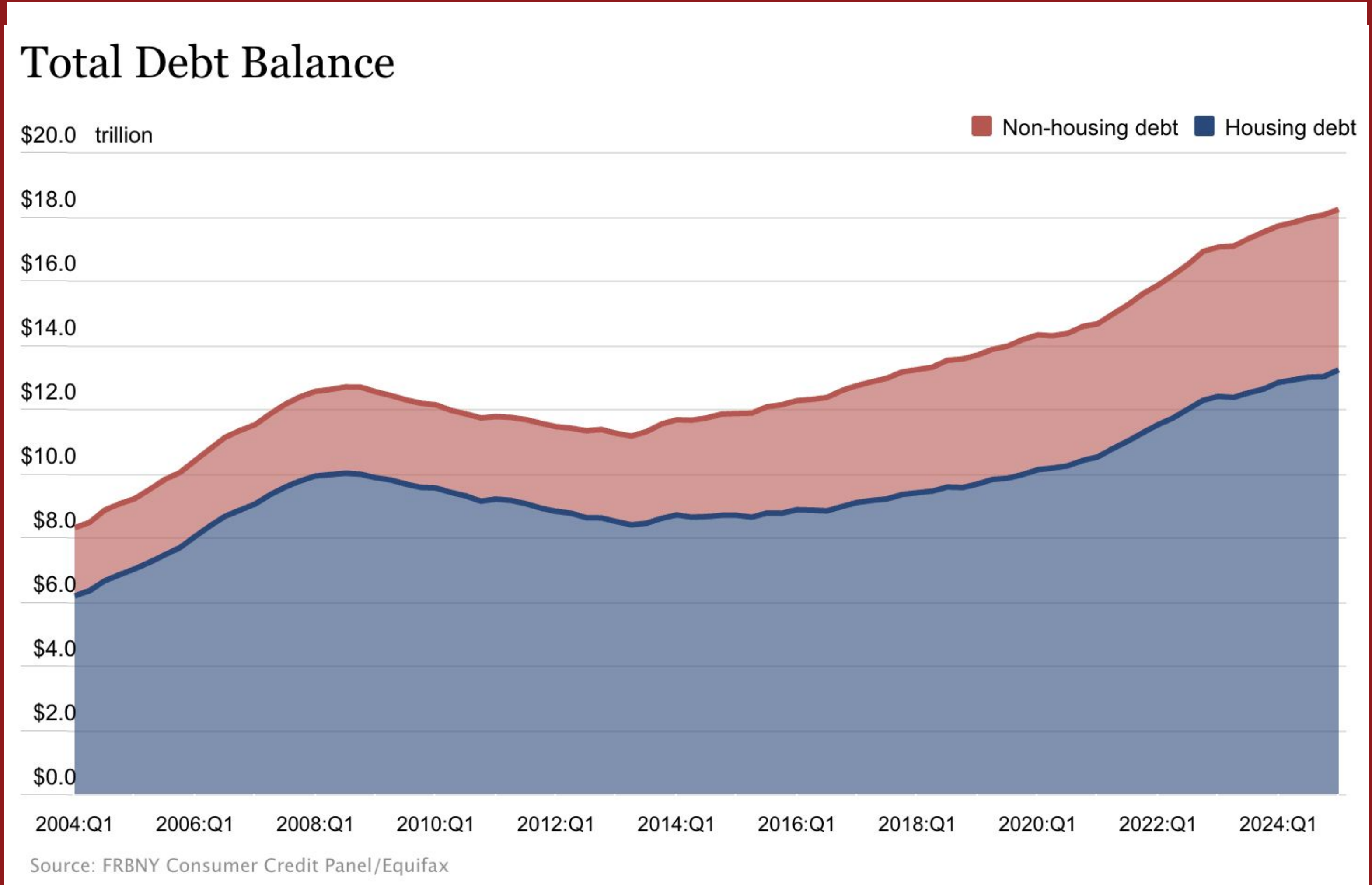
- A single missed payment (30 days late) can drop a credit score by 60-100 points depending on the person’s initial score.
- At 60 and 90 days past due, additional penalties can further reduce the score, and this pattern continues with increasing severity until the loan goes into default (typically after 180 days for most credit cards).
- Charge-offs (when the lender writes off the loan as a loss) and collections further harm the credit score and can remain on a credit report for 7 years.

Missing an Unsecured Loan Payment

Long-term consequences:

- Higher interest rates: future credit opportunities (e.g., personal loans, car loans, or mortgages) will come with higher interest rates
- Insurance premiums: auto and homeowner insurance rates are usually linked to credit scores. Poor credit scores can lead to increased premiums.
- Employment opportunities: Some employers run credit checks, especially for jobs in financial services.
- Security deposits: Utility companies and rental landlords may require higher security deposits from people with poor credit scores.

Household Debt & Credit Report



This resource and questions are from NGPF's Lesson Loan Fundamentals

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York maintains graphs every quarter to depict total household debt in the US. Click the graph to the left and review the first two graphs in the resource provided.

Based on this data, what observations can you make about household debt in the US?

Amortization

Home mortgages, auto loans, and student loans are all typically structured as amortized loans. While the minimum monthly payment on a credit card changes each month, the monthly payment of an installment loan is the same every month until the debt is paid off.

Watch this **EdPuzzle** and answer the questions throughout.

This resource and questions are from NGPF's Lesson Loan Fundamentals

Know Your Credit Rights as a Consumer!

Why it matters:

- When you borrow money, you have rights and responsibilities
- U.S. laws protect you from unfair or deceptive lending and credit practices

On the following slide, we will discuss 4 key credit protection laws.

Key Credit Protection Laws

Truth in Lending Act (TILA):
Lenders must clearly disclose interest rates, terms, and total costs; helps consumers compare loans fairly

Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA)
You have the right to see your credit report, dispute errors, and know when your credit info was used against you

Key Credit Protection Laws

Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA): Lenders can't discriminate based on race, sex, age, religion, or other personal traits

Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) Protects you from harassment by debt collectors; Debt collectors must follow rules: no threats, lies, or calling at odd hours

Activity Option

NGPF ANALYZE: Understanding Amortization

Amortized loans are straightforward when it comes to making payments. The same amount is due every single month, and if you can make larger payments, you'll pay the loan off quicker. But understanding exactly how the amortization table works and how those monthly payments are distributed is a little more complicated. Follow the directions on the worksheet to complete the activity.

02

Credit Reports & Scores

In this section you'll learn about credit reports and scores, how to dispute errors on your credit report, how to build credit at a young age, and how credit utilization is figured.

Thinking Prompt

Imagine this… A friend wants to borrow $50 from you.

What would you want to know about them before you decide to lend the money? How would their past behavior with money affect your decision?

Just like you'd check on a friend's reliability, banks and lenders check credit reports and scores to see if someone is trustworthy with money.

To lend, or not to lend?

How do lenders actually decide?

Depending on the lender, several factors could be considered whether or not you'll be approved for the loan including:

- Credit Report, credit score, and payment history
- 5 C's of creditworthiness
- Debt to Credit Ratio
- Debt to Income Ratio

Credit Reports & Scores

A credit report is your financial report card → it shows your borrowing and payment history

A credit score is the grade → a single number that sums up the information in your report.

The score comes from the report.

Understanding Your Credit Report

This resource is from NGPF's Lesson Your Credit Report

Your credit report provides others with a snapshot of your credit history. Watch the video to the left.

What kinds of information show up on a credit report (like loans, payments, or debts)?

Why is it important to check your credit report regularly?

Who is Looking at Your Credit Report?

Your credit report is like a financial reputation – and lots of people may check it before trusting you with money or responsibility. So who is looking?

- **Lenders** (banks, credit card companies, car loan providers) → to decide if they'll lend you money
- **Landlords** → to see if you'll pay rent on time
- **Employers** (some jobs) → to check financial responsibility
- **Insurance companies** → to help set rates for things like car insurance
- **You**! → to make sure everything is accurate and protect against identity theft

Thinking Prompt

Imagine you're applying for your first apartment. How could your credit report affect whether the landlord approves you?

Some employers check credit before hiring. Do you think that's fair? Why or why not?

Best Free Credit Reports

A common misconception is that using a free online credit report service will lower your credit score. Fortunately, that's not true! Below are the 6 best free credit reports of 2025:

- Best Overall: AnnualCreditReport.com
- Best for Credit Monitoring: Credit Karma
- Best for Single Bureau Access: Credit Sesame
- Easiest Sign-Up: NerdWallet
- Best for Improving Credit: CreditWise
- Best for Daily Updates: WalletHub

Activity Option

NGPF FINE PRINT: Credit Report

Your credit report contains a lot more than just your score. Having a clear understanding of what it contains can help you make better credit decisions. Follow the directions on the worksheet to complete the activity.

Disputing Errors on Your Credit Report

Mistakes on your report can lower your credit score and cost you money.

Steps to fix errors:

1. Get your free report
2. Review carefully for mistakes (wrong balances, late payments, accounts that aren't yours)
3. Gather evidence (statements, receipts, letters)
4. File a dispute with the credit bureau
5. Follow up - bureaus must investigate, usually within 30 days

Example: Spotting an Error

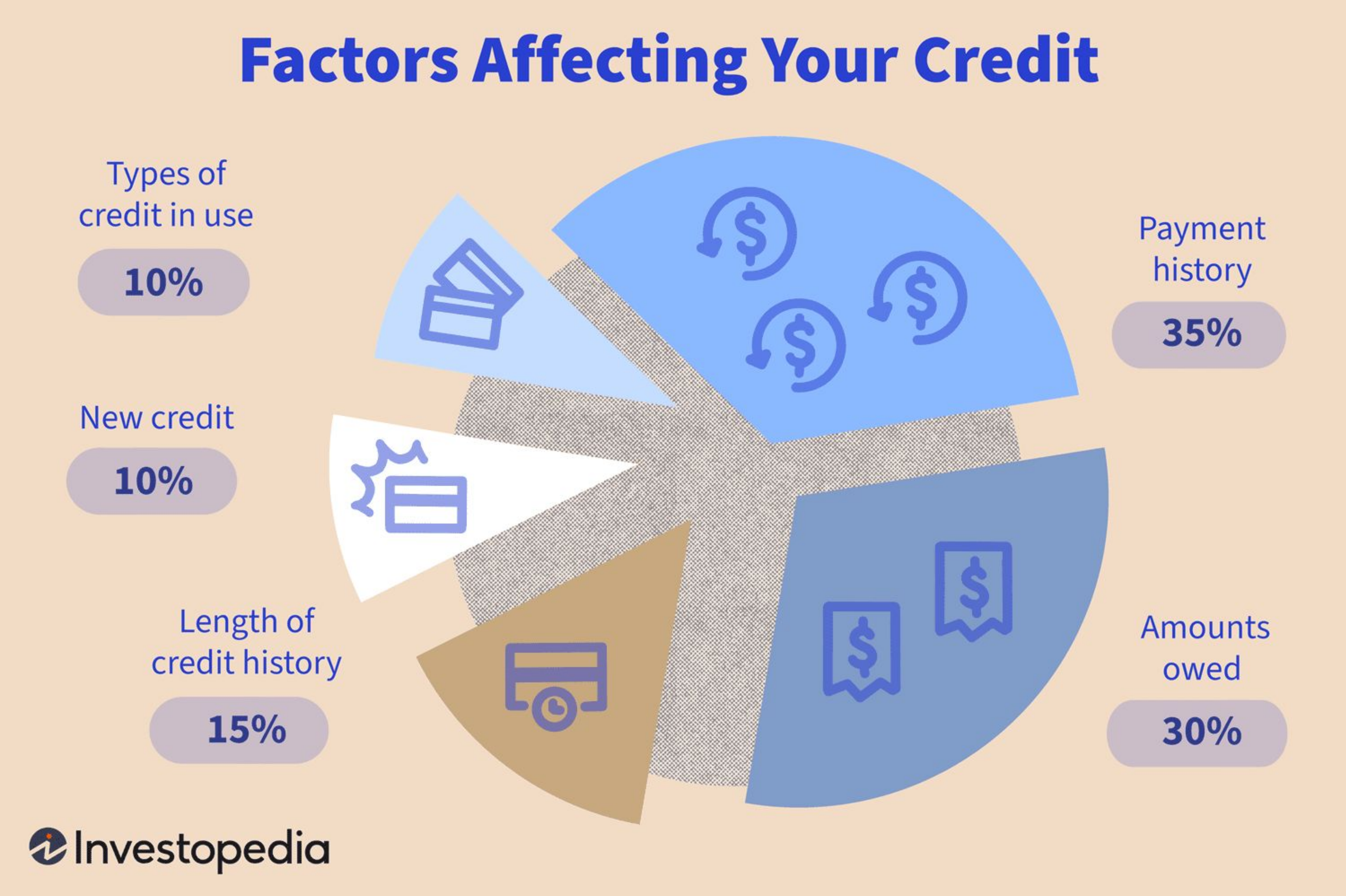
Imagine this… You check your credit report and see a late payment listed for your student loan. But you know you’ve always paid on time.

What should you do?

Intro to Credit Scores: Would You Lend?

In groups or individually, consider the below 3 borrower profiles. Who would you lend $500 to, and why?

1. Jordan: Sometimes pays late, owes money on two credit cards.
2. Alex: Always pays bills on time, has one small credit card balance.
3. Taylor: Never borrowed before, no credit history.


Factors Affecting Your Credit
Types of credit in use
10%
New credit
10%
Length of credit history
15%
Payment history
35%
Amounts owed
30%
Investopedia

Factors Affecting Your Credit Explained

Payment History (35%)

Do you pay bills on time? Late or missed payments hurt the most.

Amounts Owed (30%)

How much of your available credit are you using? For ex: owing $900 on a $1,000 card is bad for score

Credit History (15%)

How long you've had credit accounts. The longer the history, the better the score.

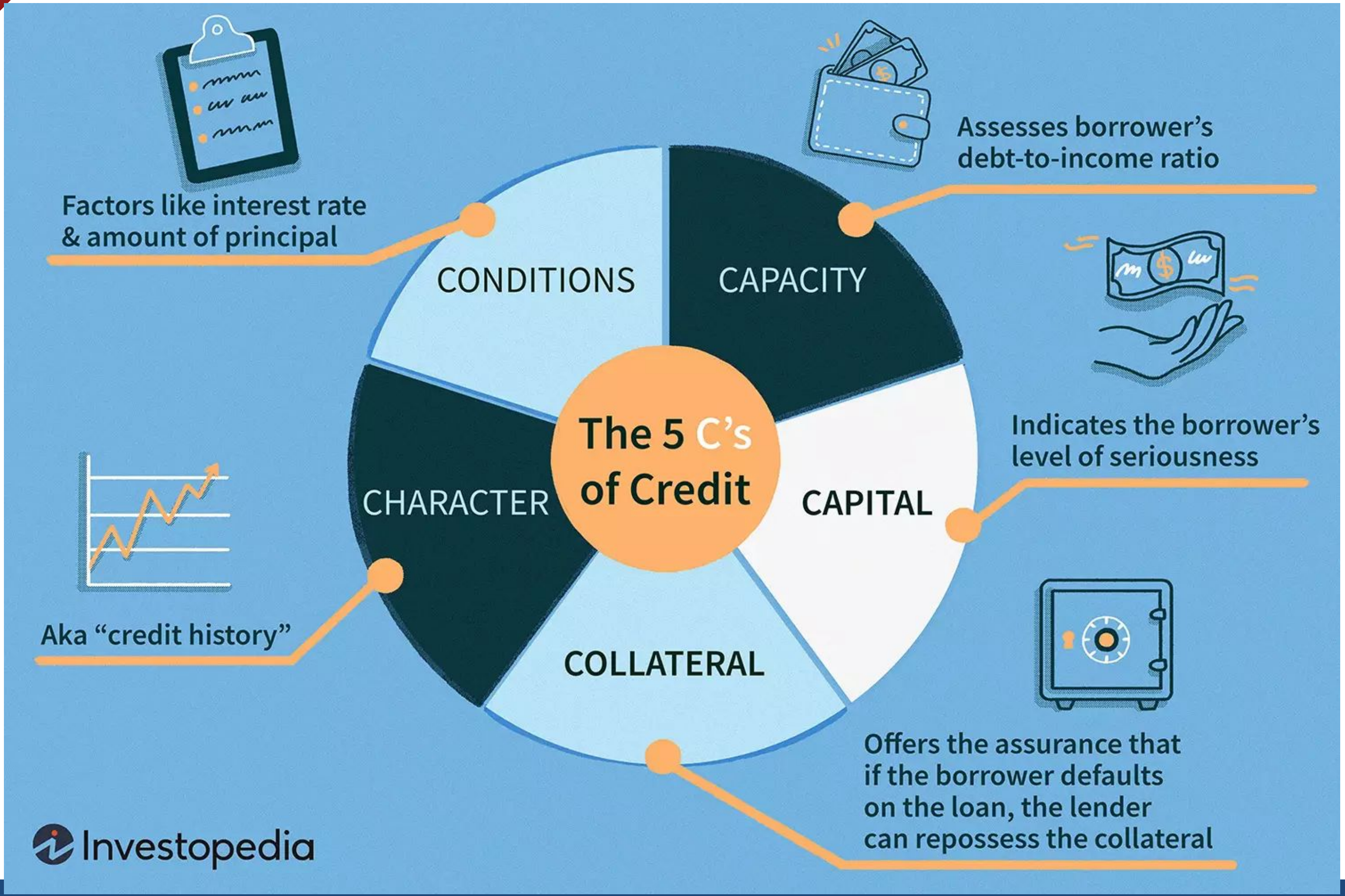
Credit Mix (10%)

Variety of accounts (like credit cards, loans, etc.). Shows you can handle different types of credit responsibly.

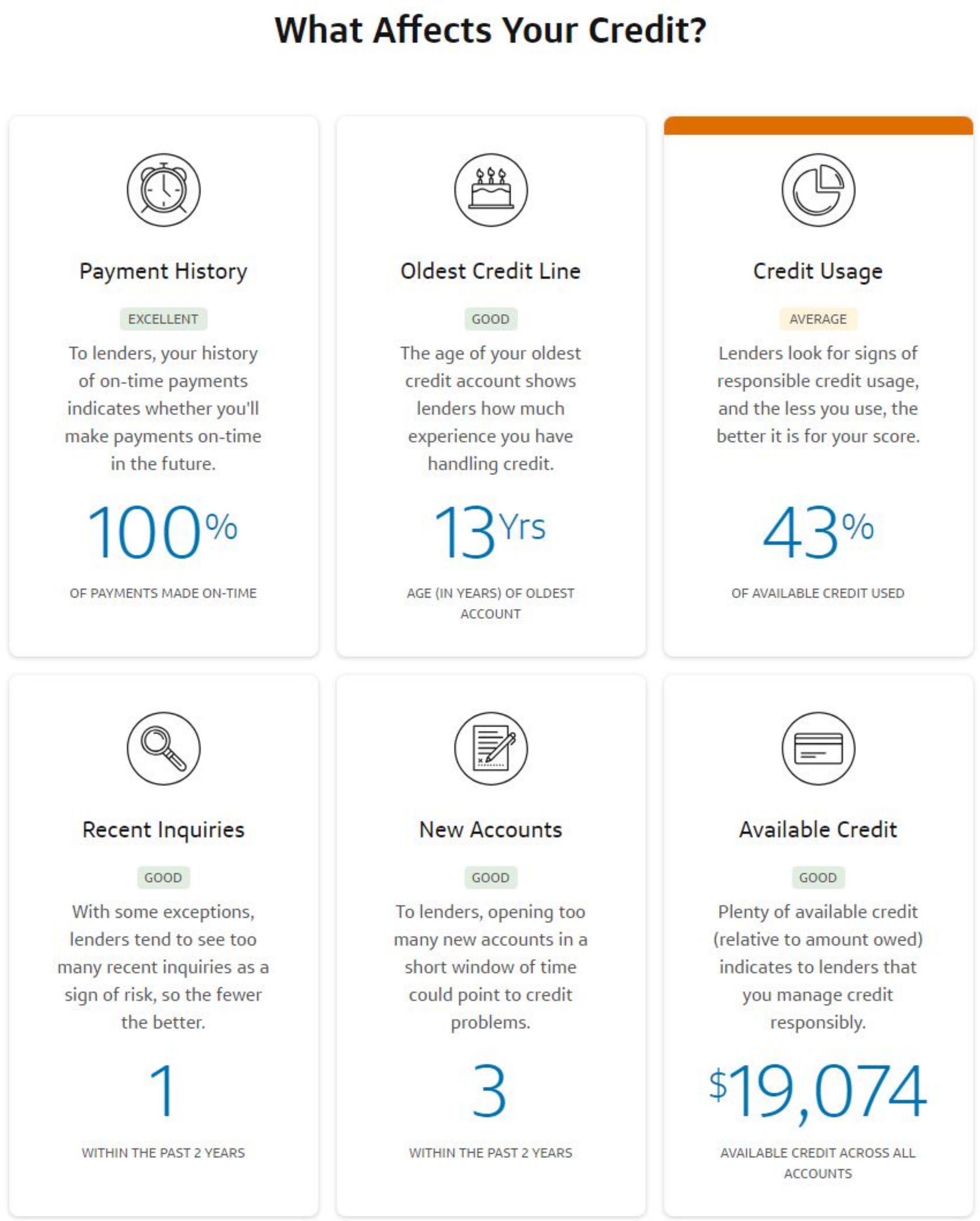
New Credit (10%)

Opening too many accounts in a short time can lower your score.

When lenders decide whether to give you a loan, they look at the 5 C's of Credit:



It may be difficult to understand the 5 C’s without having a card or seeing its impact. Here’s a snapshot of a Credit Wise rating summary from a Capital One credit card account:



What is the best Credit Utilization ratio?

Using some credit shows responsibility, but using too much makes you look risky.

Watch the video to the left to learn more about what is the best credit utilization ratio.

Debt to Credit Ratio (Credit Utilization)

Rule of thumb: should be 30% or less

Curious about tricks and habits to keep your utilization rate close to 0%? Here are a few:

- Start with one credit card, only use it to pay for a streaming service like Netflix
- Schedule auto payments just after Netflix bill issued
- Pay your credit card balance in full every day

$$\frac{\text{Total Balance Due}}{\text{Credit Limit}}$$

$$\frac{\$100}{\$1{,}000} = 10\%$$

$$\frac{\$7{,}500}{\$23{,}000} = 33\%$$

Thinking Prompts

Imagine you have a credit card with a $2,000 limit.

- You spend $1,200 on it this month for clothes, food, and gas.
- What is your credit utilization ratio?
- Is this within the recommended healthy range? Why or why not?

If you wanted to improve your utilization, what are two actions you could take?

Debt to Income Ratio

Rule of thumb: No higher than 43%

This ratio compares your total monthly debt payments to your gross monthly income. Lenders use it to determine your ability to manage monthly payments.

- A lower DTI ratio is generally better, as it shows that you have more room in your budget to take on additional debt. Most lenders prefer a DTI below 36%.
- A ratio between 36% and 43% can be a warning sign to lenders, but loans may still be approved with higher interest rates or stricter terms.
- A DTI ratio over 43% is often considered too high.

$$\frac{\text{Total monthly consumer credit payment}}{\text{Gross monthly pay}}$$

$$\frac{\$100}{\$1{,}000} = 10\%$$

$$\frac{\$739}{\$4{,}105} = 18\%$$

Debt to Income Ratio Example

Rule of thumb: No higher than 43%

Formula: DTI=(Total Monthly Debt Payments / Gross Monthly Income) × 100

Example: Sara earns $4,000 a month before taxes. She has the following monthly debt obligations: $300 for her student loan; $200 for her car loan; and $100 minimum payment on her credit card.

Her total monthly debt payment is $60. Her gross monthly income is $4,000.

DTI = (600 / 4000) x 100 = 15% > Sara's DTI ratio is 15% which is considered low and is in a good position to be approved for additional loans.

Where Can You Get Your Credit Score?

- **Credit Card Companies / Banks**: many now show your score for free on monthly statements or apps
- **Credit Score Services & Apps**: Credit Karma, NerdWallet, Experian - give free score estimates
- **Credit Bureaus**: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion may provide your score (sometimes for a fee)
- **Lenders**: when you apply for credit, lenders check your score - but applying too often can hurt your score

Activity Option

NGPF INTERACTIVE: FICO Credit Scores

Now that you know about what goes into calculating a credit score and where you can find yours, let's take a look at a few hypothetical scenarios to see how a person's financial decisions can positively or negatively impact their credit score. Follow the directions on the worksheet to complete the activity.

This activity is from NGPF's Lesson Your Credit Score

Why Build Credit at a Young Age?

Longer history = stronger score
- Credit age is a factor in your credit score

Better chances for approval
- Strong credit makes it easier to get approved for apartments, car loans, and eventually a mortgage

Lower costs
- Good credit = lower interest rates → you save money over time

Opportunities for big life steps
- Jobs, insurance, and even phone plans sometimes check credit

How to Start Building Credit From Scratch

This resource is from NGPF's Lesson Building Credit from Scratch

You need experience with credit in order to build your score, but in many cases you need a good score to access credit. So how do you get started? Watch the video to the left to learn more.

How does opening a checking account with a bank help you build credit even though it doesn't directly impact your credit score?

If you take out a loan with a co-signer, what is your responsibility and how is the co-signer impacted?

You Can Boost Your Credit Score

Did you know this was a thing?

Optional learning:

If you want to learn more about this, browse one or all of these links:

1. Experian Boost
2. UltraFICO
3. eCredable

03

Using Credit Cards Wisely

Don’t use a store card, get a reasonable interest rate, keep the limit low, and pay it off each month.

Comparing Debit vs. Credit Cards

This resource is from NGPF's Lesson [Young People & Credit Cards]

Before you decide whether you should open a credit card, you need to understand how it differs from a debit or prepaid debit card. Watch the video to the left.

Types of Credit Cards

It’s easy to become overwhelmed by the number of credit card choices out there. All you need to do is figure out which type of card would work for your needs, then focus on researching which of those are the right fit. Below are some different examples:

Rewards cards	Cash back cards
Travel cards	Business cards
Student cards	Secured cards
Co-branded cards	Store cards

Basics of Applying for a Credit Card

Requirements:

- Usually must be 18 or older
- Need income (job, allowance, or co-signer if under 21)

What lenders look at:

- Credit history (or lack of one if it's your first card)
- Ability to repay

Types of starter cards:

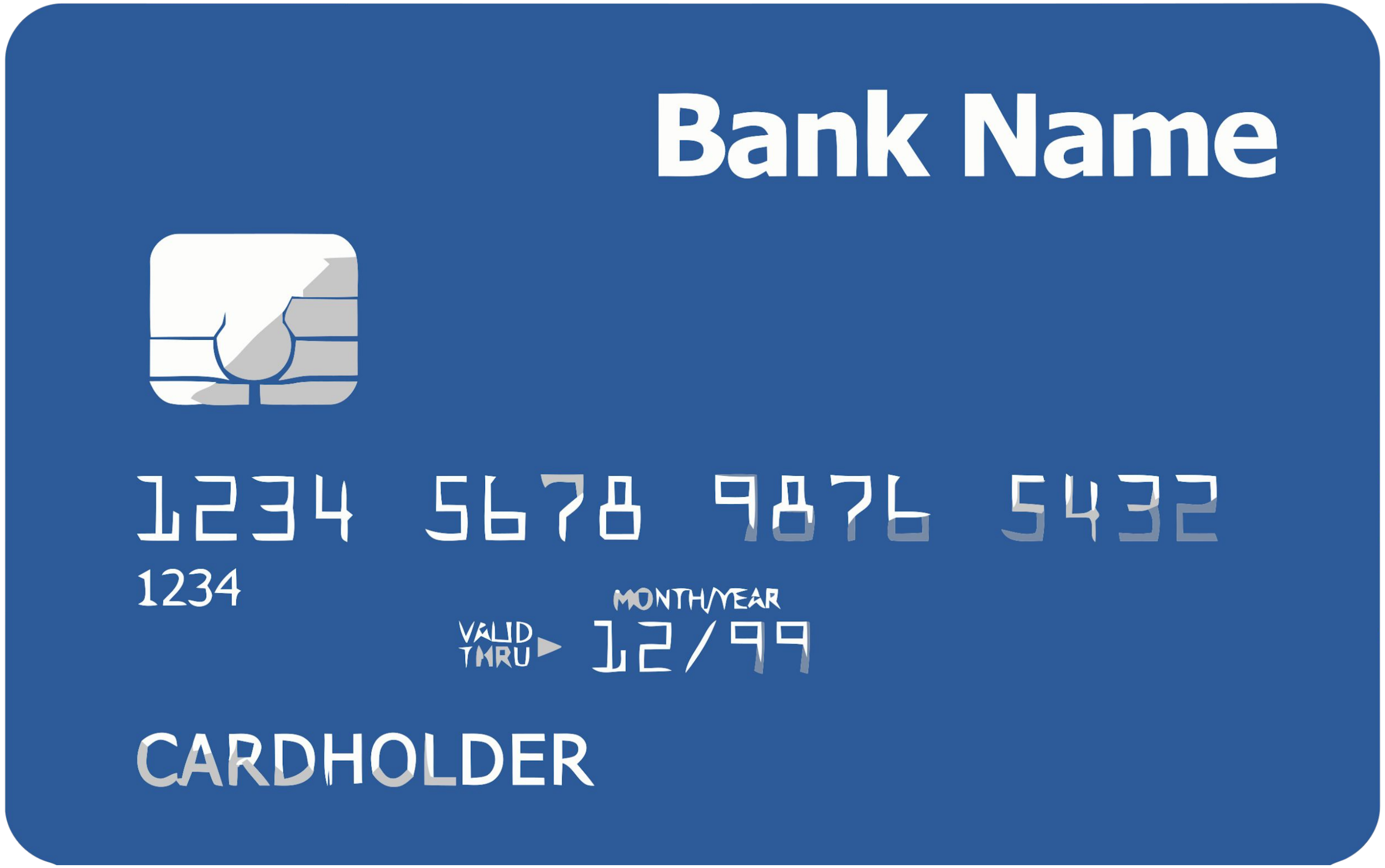
- Student credit cards (lower limits, easier approval)
- Secured credit cards (you put down a deposit as collateral)

Thinking Prompt

Imagine you're a college freshman looking for your first card. Which card below would you choose and why? What risks or benefits come with your choice? How could your spending habits affect the decision?

- Card A: Student credit card - $500 limit, no annual fee, 25% interest rate, no rewards
- Card B: Cash back card - $1,000 limit, $95 annual fee, 20% interest rate, 1.5% cash back on purchases
- Card C: Secured card - $300 limit, requires $300 deposit, 22% interest rate, no rewards

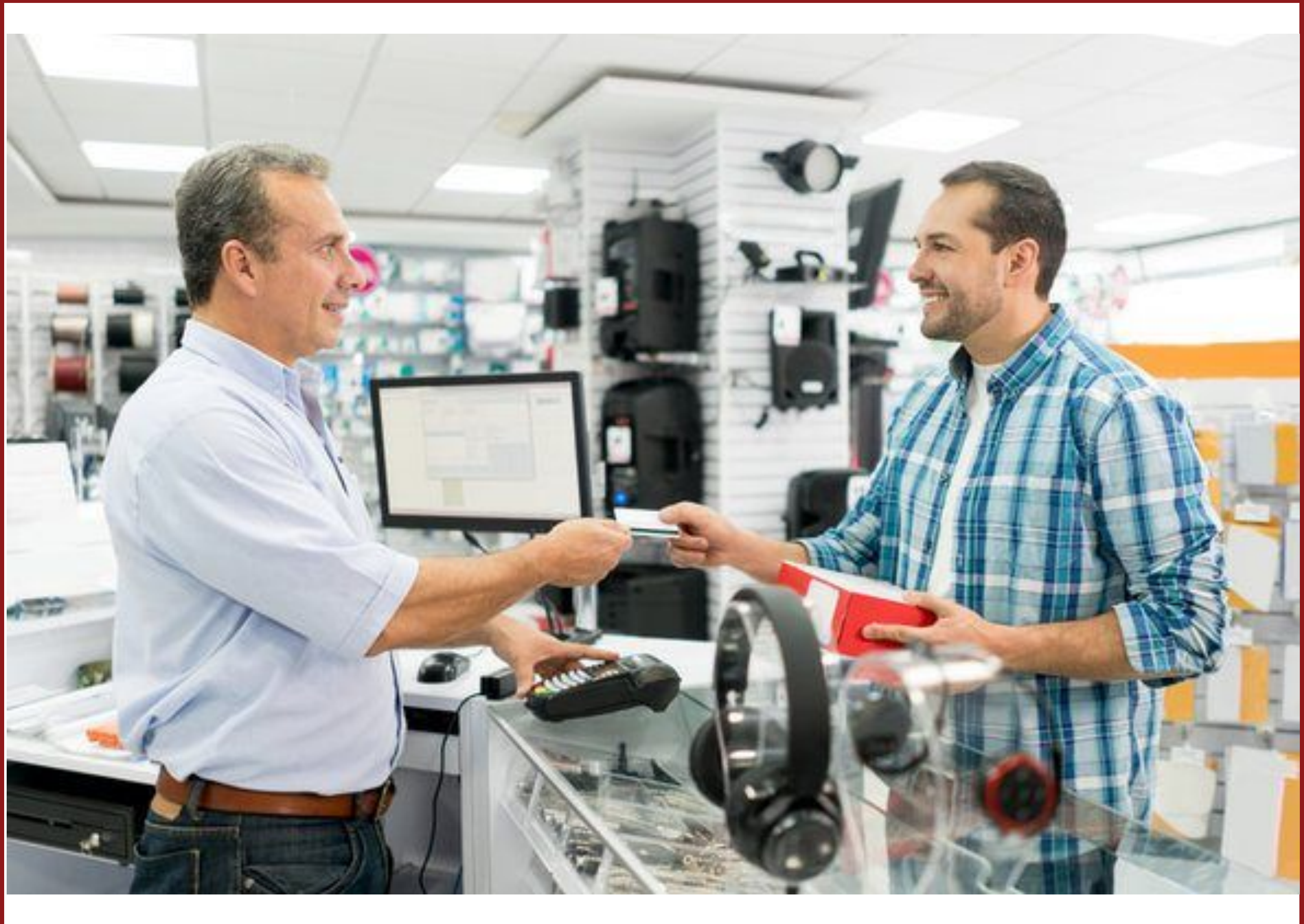
Points & Rewards Cards



These cards are not for everyone and tend to carry higher APRs, which means if you carry a balance, you'll be paying more. Read the article linked to the left to learn more.

Based on what you've learned about points/rewards credit cards, what are 2 advantages and 2 disadvantages you have interpreted?

Store Retail Cards

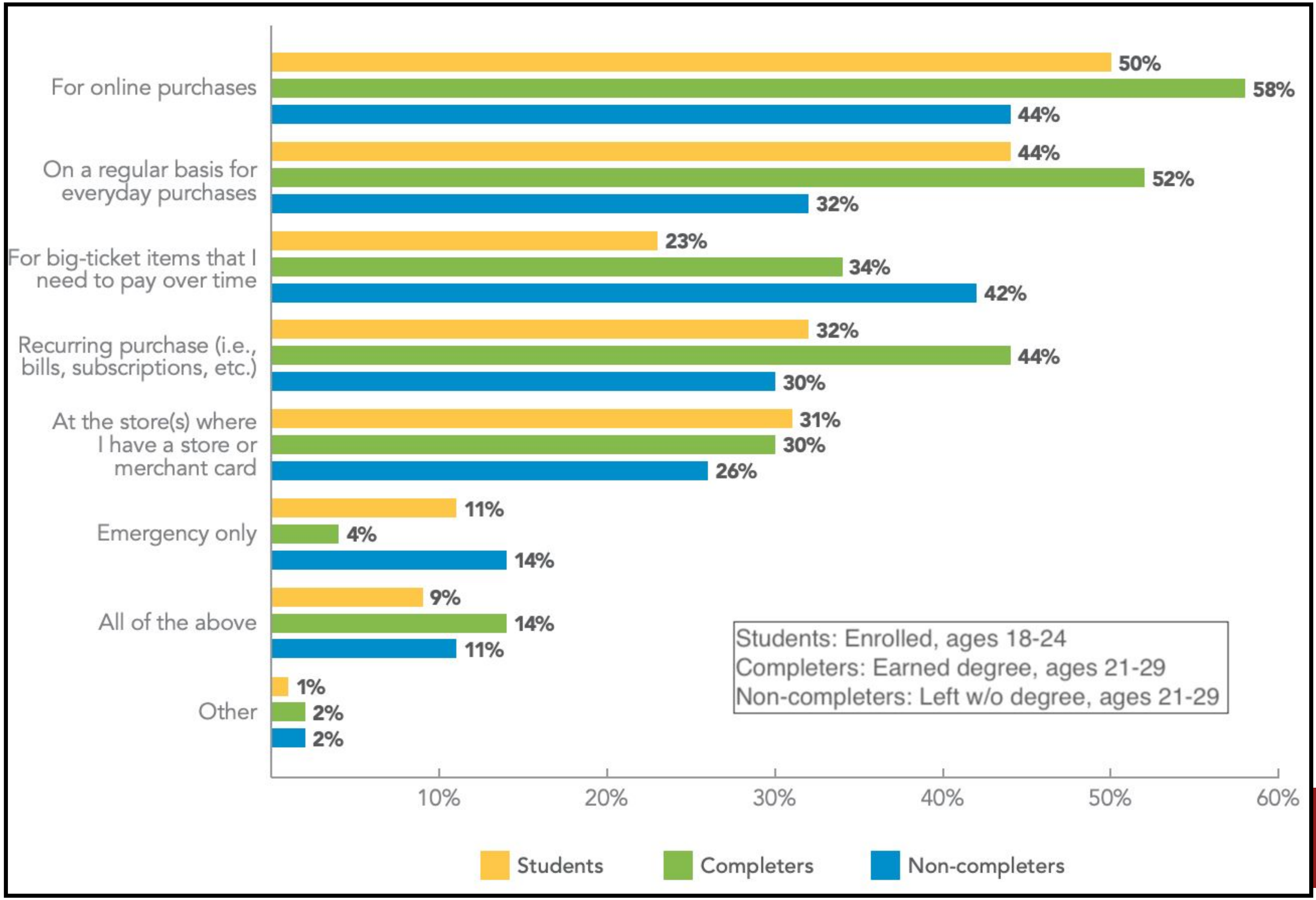


Different retailers often try and talk their customers into signing up for store-branded credit cards. Before you sign up for one, there are a few things to think about. Read the article linked to the left to learn about some pros and cons.

Thinking Prompt

Do you think it’s a good idea for high school students to have a credit card? What about college students? Adults? Explain why you feel this way.

Current and Recent College Students' Typical Credit Card Usage



You’re probably wondering whether you should get a card or not?

Credit cards can be a useful financial tool, especially if you pay off your balance in full each month.

Keep in mind that maintaining a balance below 30% of your credit limit (preferably below 20%) helps improve your credit score.

They're especially helpful to build credit if you plan to be in a position where you'll need a business credit card in your future career as well.

You’re probably wondering whether you should get a card or not?

A credit card might not be a good idea if you feel you fit in one of these categories:

- You struggle with impulse spending - If you often buy things you don’t need simply because you have available credit, you could quickly fall into a debt spiral, especially if you can’t afford to pay off the balance at the end of the month. You have to have discipline with credit cards.
- You have unstable or inconsistent income - A freelancer who has periods of low income may struggle to pay off a credit card balance during those times. This could lead to late fees, higher interest rates, or missed payments that harm their credit score.

You’re probably wondering whether you should get a card or not?

Continued:

- You already have significant debt - An individual with large student loans and a car payment might not have enough disposable income to pay off a credit card balance each month, leading to increased debt.
- You don't have a plan for repayment - Someone who uses a credit card to cover everyday expenses without budgeting or knowing how much they can afford to pay back could find themselves facing mounting credit card bills.
- You're easily tempted by rewards - A person might be tempted to use their credit card more frequently to earn airline miles or cash back, but if they can't pay off the balance in full, the interest they pay will likely exceed the value of the rewards they earn.

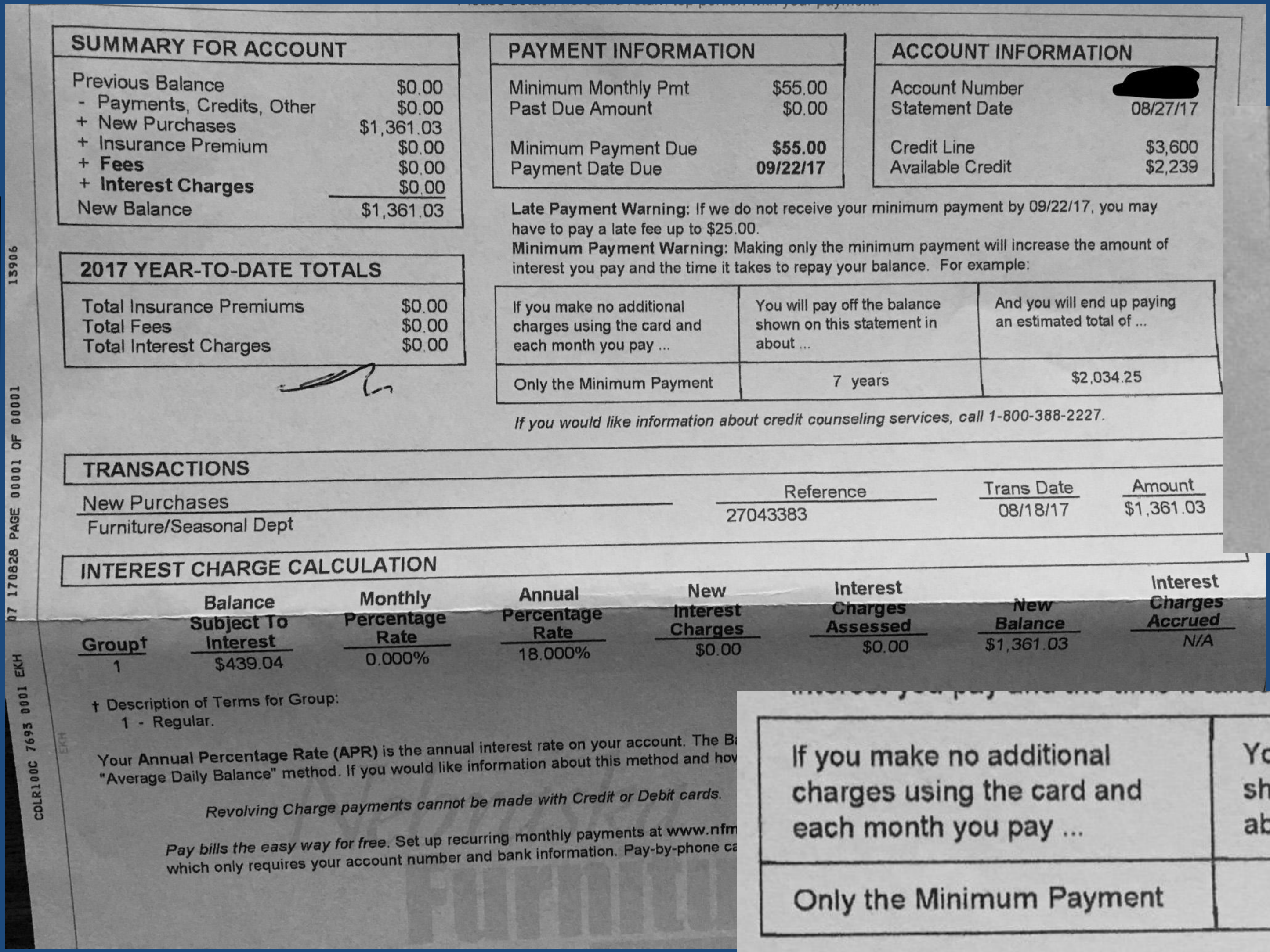
Minimum Balances

Don’t spend more than you make…

You can pay the minimum balance, but what are the costs?

If you don’t pay off your balances in full each month, you’ll quickly rack up interest charges and debt. Take a look at the photos on the next slide, paying close attention to the balance of new furniture, and then what it would cost and how long it would take to pay off that new furniture if you only paid the minimum payment.

You can pay the minimum, but...



SUMMARY FOR ACCOUNT	
Previous Balance	$0.00
- Payments, Credits, Other	$0.00
+ New Purchases	$1,361.03
+ Insurance Premium	$0.00
+ **Fees**	$0.00
+ **Interest Charges**	$0.00
New Balance	$1,361.03

PAYMENT INFORMATION	
Minimum Monthly Pmt	$55.00
Past Due Amount	$0.00
Minimum Payment Due	**$55.00**
Payment Date Due	**09/22/17**

ACCOUNT INFORMATION	
Account Number	[redacted]
Statement Date	08/27/17
Credit Line	$3,600
Available Credit	$2,239

2017 YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS	
Total Insurance Premiums	$0.00
Total Fees	$0.00
Total Interest Charges	$0.00

Late Payment Warning: If we do not receive your minimum payment by 09/22/17, you may have to pay a late fee up to $25.00.
Minimum Payment Warning: Making only the minimum payment will increase the amount of interest you pay and the time it takes to repay your balance. For example:

If you make no additional charges using the card and each month you pay ...	You will pay off the balance shown on this statement in about ...	And you will end up paying an estimated total of ...
Only the Minimum Payment	7 years	$2,034.25

If you would like information about credit counseling services, call 1-800-388-2227.

TRANSACTIONS	Reference	Trans Date	Amount
New Purchases			
Furniture/Seasonal Dept	27043383	08/18/17	$1,361.03

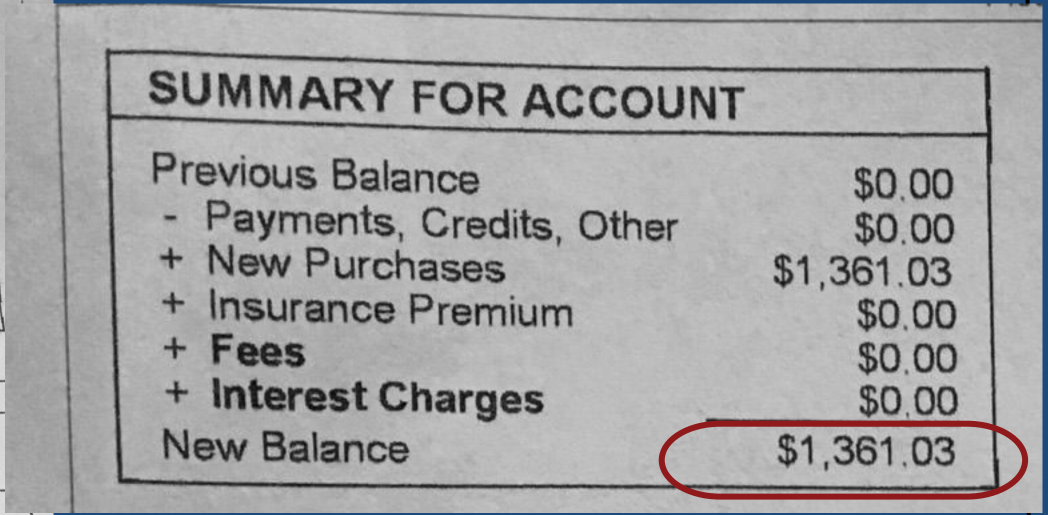
INTEREST CHARGE CALCULATION						
Group†	Balance Subject To Interest	Monthly Percentage Rate	Annual Percentage Rate	New Interest Charges	Interest Charges Assessed	New Balance	Interest Charges Accrued
1	$439.04	0.000%	18.000%	$0.00	$0.00	$1,361.03	N/A

† Description of Terms for Group:
1 - Regular.

Your **Annual Percentage Rate (APR)** is the annual interest rate on your account. The B
"Average Daily Balance" method. If you would like information about this method and how

Revolving Charge payments cannot be made with Credit or Debit cards.

Pay bills the easy way for free. Set up recurring monthly payments at www.nfm
which only requires your account number and bank information. Pay-by-phone ca



SUMMARY FOR ACCOUNT	
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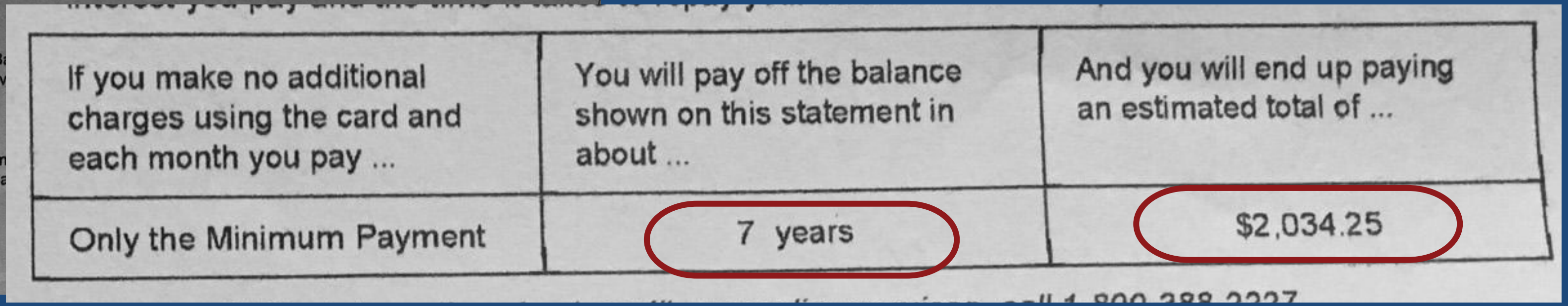
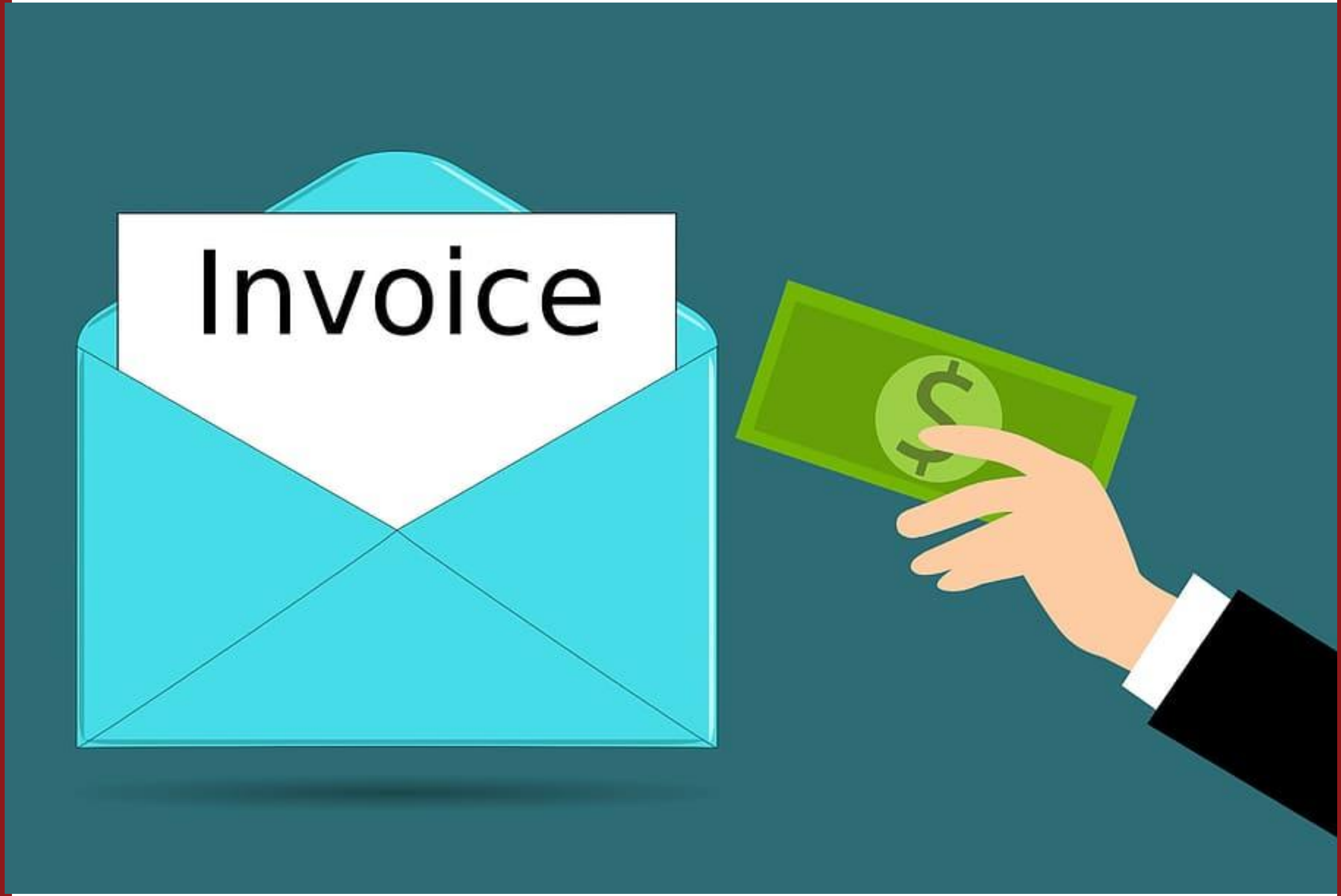


If you make no additional charges using the card and each month you pay ...	You will pay off the balance shown on this statement in about ...	And you will end up paying an estimated total of ...
Only the Minimum Payment	7 years	$2,034.25

Ways to Prevent Late Payments



Are you a procrastinator? Here are some tips for paying your bills on time to take control of your financial life. It doesn't matter which method you use, just develop a system for paying bills.

Click the article linked to the left to learn 10 ways to prevent late payments.

Thinking Prompt

If you only pay the minimum balance on your credit card, what happens to your debt over time?

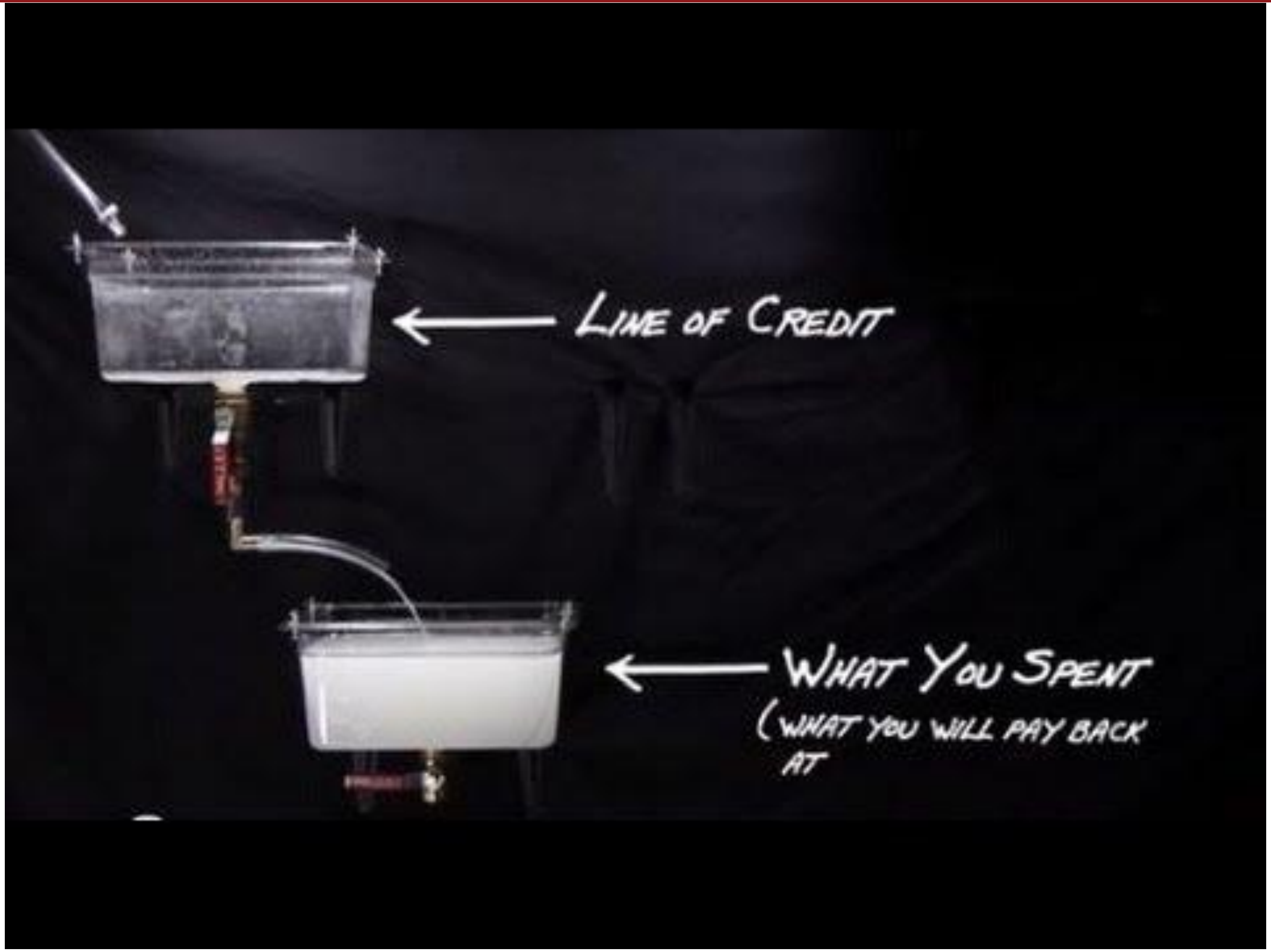
- Why might paying more than the minimum be a smarter choice?
- What are 2 strategies you could use to make sure you never miss a payment?

04

Getting Out of Debt

In this section you'll learn about the toll debt can take on your life, as well as tips for staying out of debt.

Credit Card Debt Explained



This resource is inspired by NGPF's Lesson Using Credit Cards Wisely

If you don't pay your full balance, the leftover amount becomes debt.

Interest gets added each month, making what you owe grow quickly.

Watch the video to the left and then answer the question below.

Why can carrying a credit card balance become so expensive over time?

Getting Out of Debt

1. Know what you owe
    - List debts (balance + interest rate) to see the full picture
    - Don't waste energy on shame - many people face debt
2. Commit to a payoff strategy option below
    - Consolidation (combine debts at lower interest)
    - Snowball (smallest debt first)
    - Avalanche (highest interest first)
3. Build an emergency fund
    - Evern $20/month helps
    - Prevents new debt when surprise expenses hit
4. Ask for help if needed
    - Debt management plans (nonprofit credit counseling) are safer than risky settlement programs

Strategies for Paying Down Debts

There are several ways to tackle debt like the snowball method, the avalanche method, or consolidation. Each strategy works differently, but the goal is the same: become debt-free faster and save money on interest.

Which strategy do you think would work best for you, and why?

What Happens If You Don’t Pay Your Debt?

- Late fees & penalties → your balance grows even faster
- Higher interest charges → debt becomes more expensive
- Credit score drops → makes it harder to get loans, apartments, or even some jobs
- Collections calls → debt may be sold to a collection agency
- Legal consequences → in some cases, lenders can sue or garnish wages

Ignoring debt doesn’t make it go away, it only makes the problem bigger.

Thinking Prompts

Vivian has the debts listed below and has decided that she wants to pay them all off while paying the smallest possible amount of interest. Identify which method she should use and explain the process she would follow to accomplish her goal.

- $2,400 balance on an auto loan with a 6.0% interest rate
- $6,700 balance on a student loan with a 3.5% interest rate
- $900 balance on a personal loan with a 10.2% interest rate

05

Predatory Loans

In this section you'll learn about the toll debt can take on your life, as well as tips for staying out of debt.

What do you think the cartoonist is trying to convey about payday loans?

Predatory Lending

This resource is from NGPF's Lesson Predatory Lending

Payday lenders don't actually have a giant mousetrap strapped outside of their buildings to warn you of possible danger, so it's better for you to understand how they work. Watch the video to the left

The Logic Behind Payday Loans

Why people use them:

- Quick access to cash when money is tight
- No credit check = easier approval than a credit card or bank loan
- Used to cover emergencies (like rent, bills, or car repairs) until the next paycheck

The catch:

- Very high fees and interest (often 300-400% APR)
- Borrowers often can't repay on time and get stuck rolling loans over
- Can trap people in a cycle of debt

This resource is inspired by NGPF's Lesson Predatory Lending

Activity Option

NGPF Activity: Work at Shady Sam's!

Welcome to your first day of work at Shady Sam's. Your job is to make as much money as possible off the backs of hard-working Americans. How? By issuing loans that make a heft profit. Customers will come in with requests. You get three loans to choose from. Offer the one that will make the most money. You might be tempted to use a calculator, but don't! See if you can intuitively pick the loan that will make you, the lender, the most money. Play Shady Sam HERE. Then complete the interactive worksheet provided by your teacher.

This activity is from NGPF's Lesson Predatory Lending

Safer Alternatives to Payday Loans

Credit Union Payday Alternative Loans

Offered by federal credit unions, lower fees and interest than payday loans, borrow small amounts with repayment periods up to 6 months

Credit Card Cash Advance

Typically less costly than a payday loan, still comes with fees and high interest, but regulated, should be used only if repayment is possible within a short time

Borrowing from friends or family

Interest-free or low-interest help, best with a written agreement to avoid conflicts

Financial Assistance Programs

Nonprofits or government programs may help with utility bills, rent, & food and emergency expenses

Personal Loan from Bank or Credit Union

More structured repayment than payday loans, lower APR, especially if you have decent credit

This resource is inspired by NGPF's Lesson Predatory Lending

Thinking Prompts

Which of the safer alternatives would you consider first in a financial emergency, and why?

END OF MODULE 6