

## Senior Buying Power Badge

Today you are going to earn you Buying Power badge right from the comfort of your own home! By earning this badge, you will understand the impact of making a big purchase and how you need to be prepared to keep paying for it long after you've started to use it.

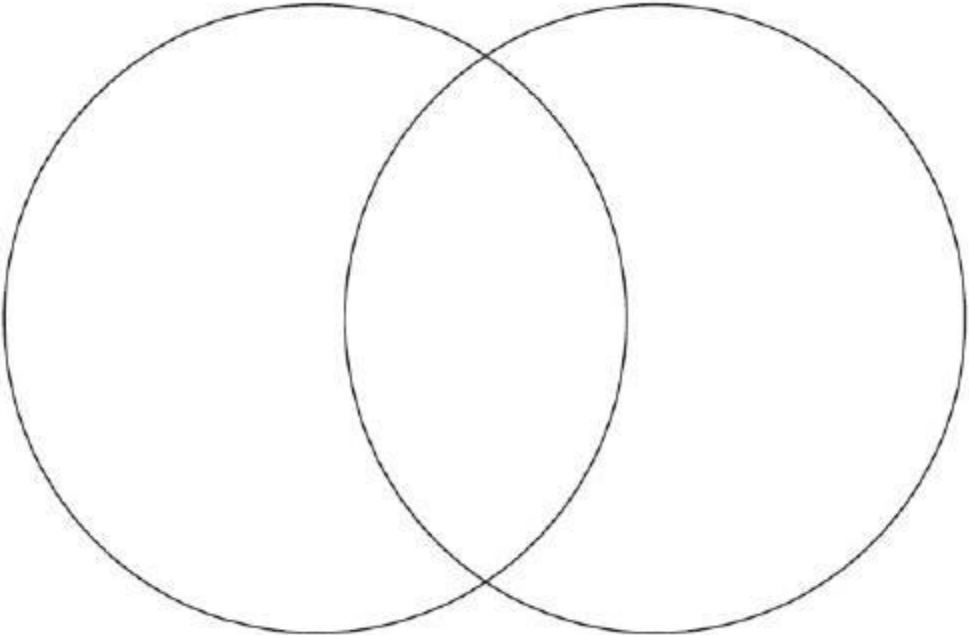
To earn this badge, read the PowerPoint and then do the assignments listed.

### STEP 1

For this step, compare and contrasts different costs of your item! You chose your item, now it is time to do the research! Choose at least 2 different variations of your item and contrast and compare your options. Create a chart that directly compares at least 10 key features, including costs and monthly fees. Review your chart with a friends or a family member and explain the choice you made. (Remember, you don't really have to buy anything!)

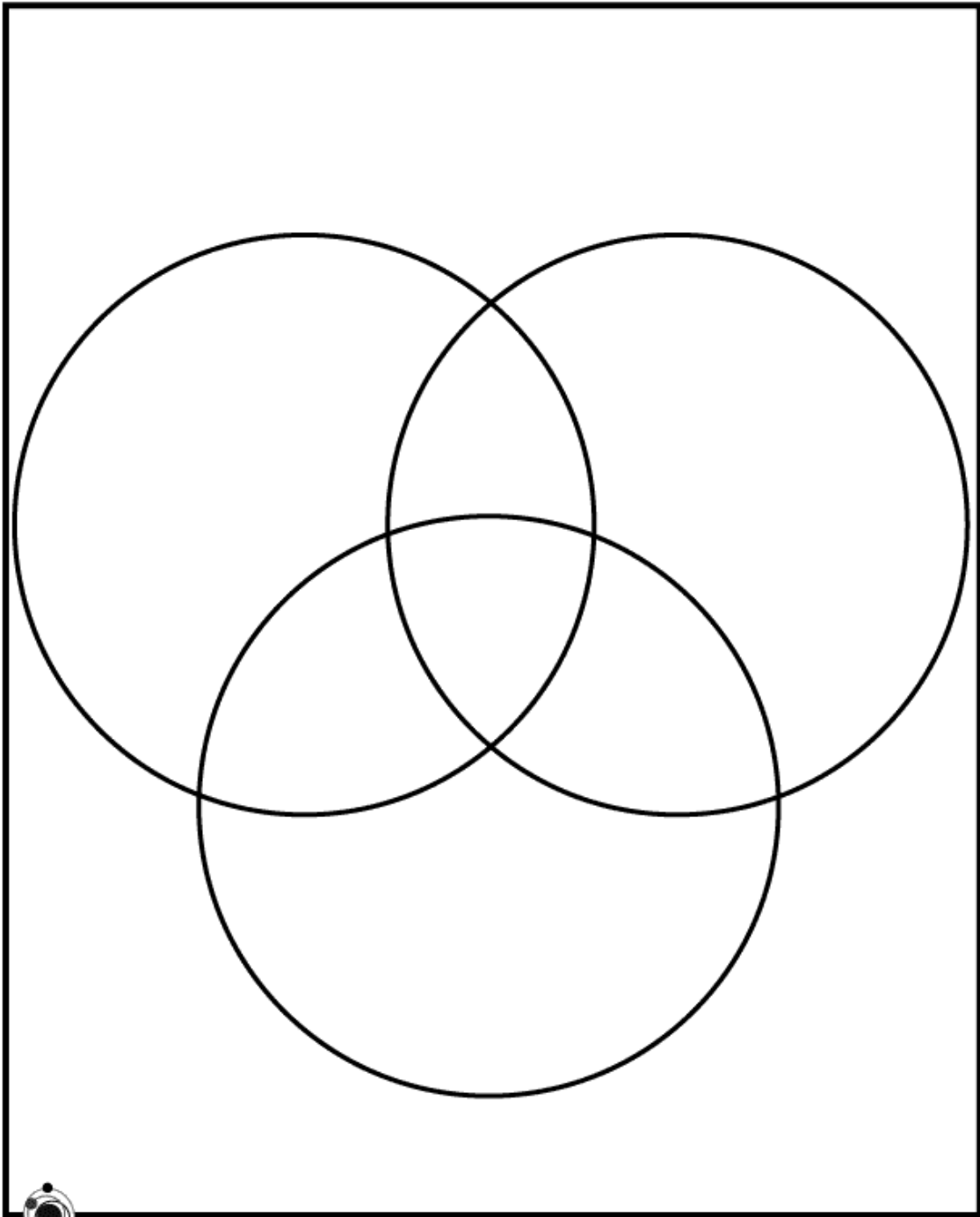
<https://www.cars.com/research/compare/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_



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The image shows a worksheet for a Venn diagram. At the top, there are three blank lines for 'Name', 'Date', and 'Class Period'. Below these is a large Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice for 'Student Handouts, Inc.' and their website address 'www.studenthandouts.com'.



## STEP 2

Chose One:

-Research customer reviews. There is probably a wealth of customer reviews for you to rely on online. Read at least 20 customer reviews, making sure you read both positive and negative ones. Discuss what you learned with a friend or family member. Did the reviews change your mind on what you would buy?

-Read expert reviews. Search through magazines and the Internet to find at least three expert reviews of your item. These reviews should be relatively long and detailed. After reading them, create a list of five pros and five cons on your item based on what the reviewers wrote.

[https://www.angieslist.com/?CID=SEM.E001.P001.M002.G002.V000.C000.X000.Y000.Z000&kw\\_id=%7BOrderItemId%7D&c\\_id=%7BAid%7D&gatc=%7BBidMatchType%7D&entry\\_point\\_id=32987639&iv=iv\\_p1a\\_928634148\\_g\\_45147437206\\_w\\_kwd-296137974642\\_h\\_9013528\\_ii\\_dc\\_vng\\_c\\_383973768934\\_k\\_angie%27s%20list\\_me\\_l\\_t\\_e\\_r\\_vi\\_&entry\\_point\\_id=32987639&gclid=Cj0KCOjwpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZooWwBJad-jo\\_eEfCvsLZqS1COPHS4ou1VIYzBuCTxB4\\_k1LzX8MJcaApqsEALw\\_wcB](https://www.angieslist.com/?CID=SEM.E001.P001.M002.G002.V000.C000.X000.Y000.Z000&kw_id=%7BOrderItemId%7D&c_id=%7BAid%7D&gatc=%7BBidMatchType%7D&entry_point_id=32987639&iv=iv_p1a_928634148_g_45147437206_w_kwd-296137974642_h_9013528_ii_dc_vng_c_383973768934_k_angie%27s%20list_me_l_t_e_r_vi_&entry_point_id=32987639&gclid=Cj0KCOjwpfHzBRCiARIsAHHzyZooWwBJad-jo_eEfCvsLZqS1COPHS4ou1VIYzBuCTxB4_k1LzX8MJcaApqsEALw_wcB)

<https://www.edmunds.com/car-reviews/>

<https://thewirecutter.com/appliances/>

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=200791000>

<https://www.zillow.com/>

## STEP 3

For this step, you are going to calculate the true cost of buying over time. Always beware of any deal that seems too good to be true, particularly when it comes to "no money down" offers. While it might feel great to walk into a store and take home a new computer or fridge without putting any money down, you could end up paying a whole lot more overtime. Research three items you could pay for over time, such as a computer, a refrigerator, or a washing machine. Use the chart that lists the price of the item, the interest rate, and the total cost if you paid for the item over three months, six months, or a year.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nBoBxjMmYTPKg0rRlvUiuRNX2Kc6VFuUVxFtg9zg--8&authuser=0>

#### STEP 4

Chose One:

-Look into buying used. Did you know that the moment you drive a new car off the lot, its value can drop by as much as 20 percent? That is because technically it's no longer a new car. Research your item on the used market. Find at least five used options for sale, then compare them with a new version of that item. Discuss with a friend or family member if buying used it a good idea.

-Research sale cycles. Can you wait a month or more to get a better deal? You might be able to save lots of money by researching sale cycles. Department stores often hold their sales over long holiday weekends, whole seasonal products like outdoor grills or ski equipment often go on sale toward the end of their season. Find three locations where your item is being sold, and create a yearlong chart for each that includes all major sales. Is there a best time to buy your product?

-Use the power of the internet. Shopping online lets you compare and contrast hundreds of different items and retailers with just a few clicks of a button. Find the exact item you are looking for on at least five different sites. What kind of price differences do you find? Can you find any additional specials or discount codes?

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/cars/best-used-car-websites/>

<https://appliancerecycler.com/>

<https://www.gazelle.com/>

<https://www.thebalance.com/comprehensive-guide-to-seasonal-sales-1289892>

#### STEP 5

Choose One:

-Short-term savings plan: Is your item something you could save up for in the next few months? Create a plan that lets you save the money needed to put a down payment on your item or buy it outright. If you will be making monthly payments, make a detailed plan you can put into action the moment you bring your item home. Share your plan with a family member

of financial expert, and ask for feedback about whether your plan is realistic. If not, ask for tips to adjust it.

-Medium-term savings plan: If you think you need a year to save for the item you want for yourself or your family, create a plan that will help you reach your goal. Since you have longer to save, you might want to consider ways to increase your income over this period. For example, you could get a part-time job with the goal of saving everything you make toward buying your item. Share your plan with a family member or financial expert, and ask for feedback about whether your plan is realistic. If not, ask for tips to adjust it.

-Long-term savings plan: If you're saving for something really big, you may need a long-term plan that will take several years to carry out. First, figure out how much you think you can realistically save each month, then determine how long it will take you to reach your goal. If the time frame seems too long, think about ways you could increase your monthly savings, either by cutting back on what you spend or by earning more money. Share your plan with a family member or financial expert, and ask for feedback about whether your plan is realistic. If not, ask for tips to adjust it.

# WORKSHEET

**The item I'd like to buy:**

**Three features my item must have:**

**Three positive things I learned about the item during my consumer research:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Three potentially negative issues I learned about the item during my consumer research:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Approximately how much my item will cost each month:**

**How long I will have to pay these monthly costs:**

**How much I need to earn to cover the costs:**

**My savings plan:**

# Teen Budget Worksheet

## Teen Budget Worksheet



### Monthly Expenses

Item	\$ Amount Budgeted	\$ Amount Spent
<b>College</b>		
Housing/Rent		
Tuition		
Books		
Class Fees		
<b>Total:</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Food</b>		
Groceries		
Snacks/Coffee		
Dining Out		
<b>Total:</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Transportation</b>		
Car Payments		
Gas/Fuel		
Auto Repairs/Maintenance		
Other Transportation		
<b>Total:</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Debt Payments</b>		
Credit/Debit Cards		
Student Loans		
Other Loans		
<b>Total:</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Entertainment</b>		
Cable TV/Internet		
Computer and Accessories		
Movies/Concerts/Sports		
Music/Videos		
Hobbies		
Cell Phone		
<b>Total:</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

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## Additional Resources

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1OBZN25rw5XasdU7qE3JfaSfSwBAClaGXAcpg5VXEsu&authuser=0>