



Financial Literacy  
Lesson Plan Contest Winner

A large, stylized green dollar sign graphic that serves as a background for the title text.

**The End  
& the  
Beginning**

by Keyona Nwaolu

### **LESSON OBJECTIVES:**

The student will create a personal financial portfolio reflecting their new life as a financially independent person.

### **MATERIALS:**

- Computers
- Internet
- MS Word

Step-by-Step Instructions

### **PART 1-GET A JOB**

1. Write a cover letter requesting a job (cashier or customer service representative) at Roland's Corner Bookstore.
2. Complete a job application for Roland's.
3. Download interview questions and prepare model answers for the actual interview.
4. Write a follow up thank you letter after the interview.
5. you got the Job (\$400/wk)! Complete your W-4 form!

### **PART 2-GET AN APARTMENT**

1. Go to apartments.com or another apartment search site to find an apartment that fits your budget. Provide a description of the apt. incl. bedrooms, bathrooms, monthly rent, # of roommates.
2. Complete a lease for the apartment. (A sample lease agreement is attached.)

### **PART 3-FIND A CAR**

1. Find a used car that you are willing to buy through carmax.com or cars.com.
2. Complete and sign a promissory note to purchase a car, use current interest rates from a bank. Please print the website from which you got the interest rates.
3. Prepare a schedule of monthly payments on the car loan using an interest calculator, available on [www.interest.com](http://www.interest.com). You'll need this information for your monthly budget. Your car loan can be repaid over three, four or five years.

### **PART 4-GET INSURED**

1. Price Auto Insurance for your car on different auto insurance websites. You'll need address information for your new apartment in order to get a quote, but other information should be accurate (i.e., give your real age, education level, and so on). Print out a copy of the best quote!

### **PART 5- START INVESTING**

1. Your relative(s) gave you \$3000 as a graduation present.
2. Determine how you will invest (CD, stock, mutual fund, or money market account) and give specific name of investment, price on specific date of purchase, and return three. Briefly describe why you chose that particular investment.

### **PART 6-CREATE A BUDGET**

1. Your budget must balance (w/ leftovers)and must take into account ALL of your expenses (apartment, car, food, gas, insurance,phone, utilities, etc). If you can't get your budget to balance you may have to buy a cheaper car or rent a smaller apt.

### **WRAP UP & REFLECTION:**

Once you've finished ALL parts of your portfolio including creating and printing a budget, see how it stacks up against a month of actual (hypothetical) expenses. After showing me your budget, I'll provide a series of hypothetical expenses you incur while living on your own. Using these expenses, how did you do compared to your budget?

In at least two paragraphs, answer the following: What did you learn about yourself after completing this project? What did you learn about being a financially independent person? How, if at all, will you apply what you learned once you actually get out into the real-world?

For more information on H&R Block Dollars & Sense and its resources for increasing financial literacy among teens, visit [hrblockdollarsandsense.com](http://hrblockdollarsandsense.com).