



Red & Black Approach To MONEY & MATH



I love how so many Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses are including basic personal finance. I wish they had done that back when I was a student.



You were such a geek and so focused on getting As in traditional academic subjects that I doubt you would have taken a CTE class. Maybe you should have, as CTE is more than just academics. CTE is about preparing students for careers ... and for life.



Yes, but the fact that they're including financial topics as part of non-financial courses is a great idea. After all, for many of us, myself included, I'd never voluntarily take a finance class.



Why not? Personal finance impacts everyone.



I know that now. Back then, I was more interested in history and English. I never liked math, and only took it because it was required. Besides basic arithmetic, I never thought I'd use math.



Really? Math is more than just taking algebra, geometry, and calculus classes. It helps develop critical thinking, problem solving, and deductive logic and reasoning skills. Skills you need in order to accomplish daily tasks, and to set and reach goals.



Well, let me break the news to you – most of us “mere mortals” don’t look at math that way. We see it as lots of numbers and equations. I love when we talk to students and you ask how many like math, and a small percentage of hands go up. But when you ask how many like money, everyone raises their hand.



It is all how you package it. If math is required, I would think a class that focuses on the relevancy of math and how it is used to make smart real life decisions (evaluating employment opportunities, credit cards, buying vs. leasing a car, mortgages, and countless other applications) would be the way to go.



No kidding. If I had learned those lessons in school instead of when I was 40+ years old, it would have prevented lots of mistakes and saved me lots of money.

LEADING QUESTIONS

1. How does this topic apply to your personal life?
2. How does this topic apply in the workforce?

Checklists And Worksheets In This Section

- Mathematical Applications - Chapter Worksheet (see page 3)

Note that the column headings have intentionally been left blank to provide more flexibility in using the document.

Questions / Research Topics /Activities / Discussions

1. *What I Learned About Life When My Husband Got Fired!* is not a traditional mathematics textbook. However, as you read through the book, identify all the applications of mathematics. Start a spreadsheet or use the document on page 3 (column headings have intentionally been left blank to provide more flexibility in using the document).
2. Do you think seeing real life applications of the concepts taught in school is important to the learning process? Explain your answer.
3. Do you think interdisciplinary/cross-curricular teaching helps reinforce the underlying knowledge and skills? Explain your answer.
4. In Chapter 2, while trying to avoid addressing her financial situation, Red uses the cliché "Ignorance is bliss." Black responds, "No, ignorance is ignorance." Explain the significance of Black's comment.
5. Initially, Red is overwhelmed (and frustrated) by financial topics, but Black soon realizes it is the terminology, not the concepts, that are creating the problems/challenges. This frequently happens in life and, in fact, some professions are notorious for confusing people with terminology. Can you think of a few examples? How do you think they make their customers/clients feel?
6. Why is it important to become familiar with financial terminology and vocabulary? What is the best way to acquire that knowledge? Do you think it is only relevant for people who want careers in finance or accounting? Why?
7. Money issues are a major factor in a large percentage of divorces, and also is a cause of stress and problems in families. Do you think being able to talk (not argue) about money is important in a marriage or relationship? Why is money such a difficult topic to discuss? What can be done to overcome that?
8. Do you think Red's life would have been different if she had learned about personal finance when she was in school? Would she have been better prepared when her husband was fired? Explain your answers.
9. Do you think the personal finance concepts in *What I Learned About Life When My Husband Got Fired!* also apply to organizations? Explain your answer.
10. A wealthy donor gives your school a \$1,000,000 donation and only asks that you advise them as to how the money was spent. As a class, decide how the money should be spent. (Although the target market is high school students, the individual responses reflect different wants, needs, and demographics.)



What I Learned About Life When My Husband Got Fired!
MATHEMATICAL APPLICATIONS – CHAPTER WORKSHEET*

CHAPTER:				
Prologue				
Introduction				
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Epilogue				

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