



Student Financial Aid
Information Centre

Paper Clip Game

1. Hand out number of paperclips depending on the student's situation:
 - a. Single living at home – 10 clips
 - b. Single living away from home – 20 clips
 - c. Married – 40 clips
 - d. Kids – 10 clips/child
2. Each clip represents the student's income for the month (\$50/clip). The income amounts are based on Canada and Alberta Student loan guidelines.
3. Read out, in random order, the number of paper clips participants have to “pay” for each expense listed below.
4. Ask everyone when they ran out of paper clips
5. Discuss prioritizing. Questions to ask:
 - a. What expenses could you cut back on?
 - b. Are your spending habits in-line with your values?

| Expense Types | Example average per month | # of Clips | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| | | Single home | Single Away | Married | Kids |
| Rent | \$400-\$1000 | 0 | 8 | 10 | |
| <i>Electricity</i> | \$50-\$100 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Water</i> | \$50-\$100 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Heat</i> | \$50-\$100 | | | | |
| Telephone | \$25-\$50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Smart Phone</i> | \$25-\$100 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| <i>Regular Phone</i> | \$20-\$50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Internet | \$20-\$50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Cable TV | \$10-\$50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Groceries | \$150-\$300 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2/child |
| Personal Care (<i>Toiletries, feminine products, etc.</i>) | \$10-\$80 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2/child |
| Household incidentals (<i>newspapers, bank fees etc.</i>) | \$40-\$50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1/child |
| Clothing | \$50-\$200 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2/child |
| <i>Laundry</i> | \$5-\$20 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1/child |
| Transportation (<i>bus, gas, parking, insurance, repairs</i>) | \$20-\$300 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| Eating out | \$20-\$80 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| Recreation | \$50-\$100 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1/child |
| Cigarettes | Variable | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| Liquor | Variable | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| | -- | | | | |
| | Total Monthly Expenses | 28 | 40 | 48 | |