

Lena Lin

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Bloomington High School South

Day 23 Greenest

I still live with my mom so I don't spend a lot of money on non-discretionary items. For example, because I drive my mom's car, I don't need to pay for gas. My weekly budget is made up entirely of discretionary spending.

Current Approximate Weekly Budget

Budget Item	Weekly Price
Food - I will often eat out with friends, up to two times weekly sometimes	\$20
Recreation/Social - It depends on the week, but when I go out with my friends sometimes it costs money. The most common expenditure here probably goes towards watching movies because it is one of my favorite hobbies.	\$10
Tutoring - I've started getting tutored about once a week	\$30
Clothing - Although I almost always thrift clothes now, I still go fairly often	\$5

Improved Weekly Budget to Follow

Budget Item	Weekly Price / Monthly Goal
Food - going out so often is unnecessary, and although I usually use these meals to catch up with friends, we could always go to	\$10 / \$20

<p>someone's house and just eat there for free! However, because I often have to eat downtown after a meeting or something similar, I will keep a \$10 food budget for outside of home eating. This budget will renew weekly but I will make a rule that I can only eat out with friends once a month, and only if I do not have to eat out any other day that week.</p>	
<p>Recreation/Social - Although it mostly just depends on what event my friends and I are going to, I don't think I ever truly need to spend money just to be with my friends, so I can definitely lower my weekly budget for it. However, because I like going to the movies so much, I will allow myself one trip each month if I don't spend the \$10 on something else. I think this is completely feasible because I can simply hold off on watching certain movies if I don't have the money left because I can just stream it a few months later for cheaper.</p>	\$0 / \$10
<p>Tutoring - After this trimester is over, I'm hoping to only have to get tutored before each test, until I eventually don't need it at all.</p>	\$30 / \$60
<p>Clothing - I still need more winter clothes, which is the only reason this budget isn't \$0, but I have plenty of warmer season clothing so I won't need to buy any additional clothing for a long time besides just one more pair of pants and perhaps a shirt to stay warm during this winter. Additionally, I can upcycle some old clothes if I ever get tired of my closet!</p>	\$5 / \$10

My original budget was \$3,380, and my improved one is \$1,200. With these simple changes, I could save \$1,180! By making such changes, I would also lessen environmental impact by eating

more food at home instead of out (where there is less transparency with the ingredients in my food) and buying less clothes (only when necessary).

Three benefits of using this new budget is:

- 1.) I can get more used to eating at home and making my own food, which will help prepare me for college and allow me the opportunity to implement meal planning, budgeting, etc. skills from previous PGC challenges.
- 2.) I can stop wasting so much money on clothes that I buy impulsively that I only wear a few times, and instead, make conscious choices shopping from thrift stores and making sure I only buy clothes when I need it.
- 3.) By lessening all 4 of these aspects of my weekly/monthly budget, I can save gas and prevent more air pollution because:
 - eating out less means I will also not be driving to restaurants as much
 - driving to social events is typically a further distance than just driving or biking to a friend's home, so it will also save gas
 - driving out to meet my tutor on a very regular basis uses gas
 - driving around to stores uses gas