

Financial Values Inventory

Your values are beliefs or ideas that you consider important or desirable. Everyone has values, but everyone does not value the same things equally.

To help you recognize some of your own money values, read the pairs of words below, then circle one item in the pair that would be your first choice in answering the question, "If you had an extra \$100, on which of the two items would you spend your money?" You must make one choice in each pair.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Housing (Dream Home/Vacation Home) | Hobbies/Sports |
| Retirement Savings/Investments | Church/Charitable Giving |
| Education: Self/Others | Vacation/Travel |
| Vacation/Travel | Personal Appearance/Grooming/Clothes |
| Retirement Savings/Investments | Church/Charitable Giving |
| Hobbies/Sports | Social Activities/Eating Out |
| Social Activities/Eating Out | Housing (Dream Home/Vacation Home) |
| Car | Retirement Savings/Investments |
| Education: Self/Others | Hobbies/Sports |
| Housing (Dream Home/Vacation Home) | Housing (Dream Home/Vacation Home) |
| Personal Appearance/Grooming/Clothes | Church/Charitable Giving |
| Car | Social Activities/Eating Out |
| Retirement Savings/Investments | Personal Appearance/Grooming/Clothes |
| Hobbies/Sports | Vacation/Travel |
| Hobbies/Sports | Retirement Savings/Investments |
| Car | Social Activities/Eating Out |
| Housing (Dream Home/Vacation Home) | Education: Self/Others |
| Vacation/Travel | Car |
| Vacation/Travel | Personal Appearance/Grooming/Clothes |
| Church/Charitable Giving | Education: Self/Others |

Now total the number of times you circled each item in the pair activity:

- Car _____
- Charitable Giving _____
- Education _____
- Hobbies/Sports _____
- Housing _____
- Personal Care _____
- Retirement _____
- Social _____
- Travel _____

(Adapted from the High School Financial Planning Program (NEFE@), 1992.)

Now you can rank your values. Write down the values (car, retirement, charity, etc.) having the highest number of "votes." This list reflects the items you consider most important in their order of importance. By knowing your values, you can make sure your goals and attitudes reflect your values. The closer they all match your spending plan, the easier reaching your financial goals and financial security will be. Did you learn anything new about yourself in this activity?