Values and Spending

Your values are beliefs or ideas you consider important or desirable. Everyone has values, but you may value things differently from your friends.

To help you recognize some of your own money values, read the pairs of words below, then circle one value in each pair that would be your first choice in answer the question presented. You must make one choice in each pair.

If you had \$50, what would you spend it on?

| 8. Hobbies | 3. Clothes | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 5. Church/giving | | 6. Car |
| | 1. Savings | 1. Savings |
| 9. Social activities | 5. Church/giving | |
| 3. Clothes | | 9. Social activities |
| | 8. Hobbies | 4. Sports/recreation |
| 1. Savings | 3. Clothes | |
| 4. Sports/recreation | | 6. Car |
| | 2. Food | 10. Personal appearance |
| 7. School expenses | 5. Church/giving | |
| 3. Clothes | | 10. Personal appearance |
| | 6. Car | 1. Savings |
| 2. Food | 7. School expenses | |
| 4. Sports/recreation | | 5. Church/giving |
| | 1. Savings | 6. Car |
| 5. Church/giving | 9. Social activities | |
| 10. Personal appearance | | 2. Food |
| | 8. Hobbies | 1. Savings |
| 1. Savings | 4. Sports/recreation | |
| 8. Hobbies | | 8. Hobbies |
| | 2. Food | 6. Car |
| 7. School expenses | 9. Social activities | |
| 4. Sports/recreation | | 9. Social activities |
| | 4. Sports/recreation | 7. School expenses |
| 2. Food | 3. Clothes | |
| 8. Hobbies | | 6. Car |
| | 3. Clothes | 2. Food |
| 10. Personal appearance | 5. Church/giving | |
| 2. Food | | 10. Personal appearance |
| | 8. Hobbies | 9. Social activities |
| 9. Social activities | 9. Social activities | |
| 5. Church/giving | 5. Church/giving | 3. Clothes |
| 10. Personal appearance | 4. Sports/recreation | 6. Car |
| | | |

| | 4. Sports/recreation | 3. Clothes |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 8. Hobbies | | 1. Savings |
| 10. Personal appearance | 7. School expenses | |
| | 8. Hobbies | 9. Social activities |
| 6. Car | | 6. Car |
| 4. Sports/recreation | 3. Clothes | |
| | 2. Food | 10. Personal appearance |
| 7. School expenses | | 7. School expenses |
| 1. Savings | 5. Church/giving | |
| | 7. School expenses | 7. School expenses |
| 10. Personal appearance | | 2. Food |

Count all the times you circled Savings and write the total in the space provided below. Do each of the other values the same way.

| 1. Savings | 6. Car |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2. Food | 7. School expenses |
| 3. Clothes | 8. Hobbies |
| 4. Sports/recreation | 9. Social activities |
| 5. Church/giving | 10. Personal appearance |

Now write the item having the highest number in the space next to number 1. If there is a tie, write the items in the order you would choose. The list reflects the items you consider most important in their order of importance. By knowing your values, you can design a personal spending plan that will fit them. The closer your budget fits your values, the easier it will be to follow.

| 1. | 6. |
|----|-----|
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Source: National Endowment for Financial Education's High School Financial Planning Program

