

## Top 7 Classic Personal Finance Mistakes

College credit cards  
Not saving  
Not investing  
Not paying attention to bank balance (overdraft fees)  
Paying bills late  
Moving out too early (not ready)  
Going to college one can't afford

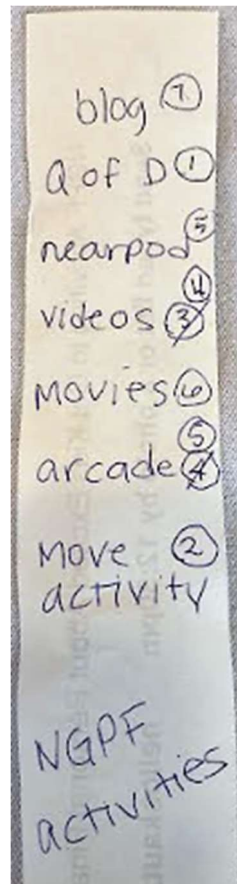
## Top 7 (and more!) Personal Finance Books

Don't Drink from the Saucer  
Get Money  
Cashing Out  
Get Good With Money  
Overcoming Debt and Achieving Financial Freedom  
I Will Teach You to Be Rich  
The Simple Path to Wealth  
The Psychology of Money  
I Hate Money  
How to Adult  
Loaded  
Broke Millennial

## Top 7 Things I Hope My Students Remember for a Financially Happy Life

- You can be content with less expensive items
- Invest early
- Go to college debt free
- Try not to use debt at all
- Be a wise consumer
- Keep a 3-6 month emergency fund
- Keeping a budget—it helps to know you have a plan for your future!

## Top 7 NGPF Activities



## Top 7 (and more!) Economics Concepts Every PF Student Should Know

Budgeting  
Ethics  
Investing  
Interest  
Career Exploration and Living in Your Means  
Taxes  
Behavioral Economics  
Trade off/Opportunity cost  
Fiscal Policy vs Monetary Policy  
Unintended Consequences/Freakonomics

## Top 7 (ok, 8) Personal Finance Teaching Tips I Wish I Had Known

- 1) NGPF resources are great!
- 2) Everfi is great!
- 3) How to do your banking (Machias Savings Bank)
- 4) MIMIC Personal Finance
- 5) FAME
- 6) Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
- 7) Titan challenge
- 8) Less is more – use more activities & stories

## Top 7 Credit Card Comments - The Good, The Bad, What I Wish I Had Known

Hard to dig yourself out.

Good for emergencies, especially when starting out.

What happens after introductions (rates, terms, etc.)

How to use credit cards to build credit.

Learning the differences in cards to build credit.

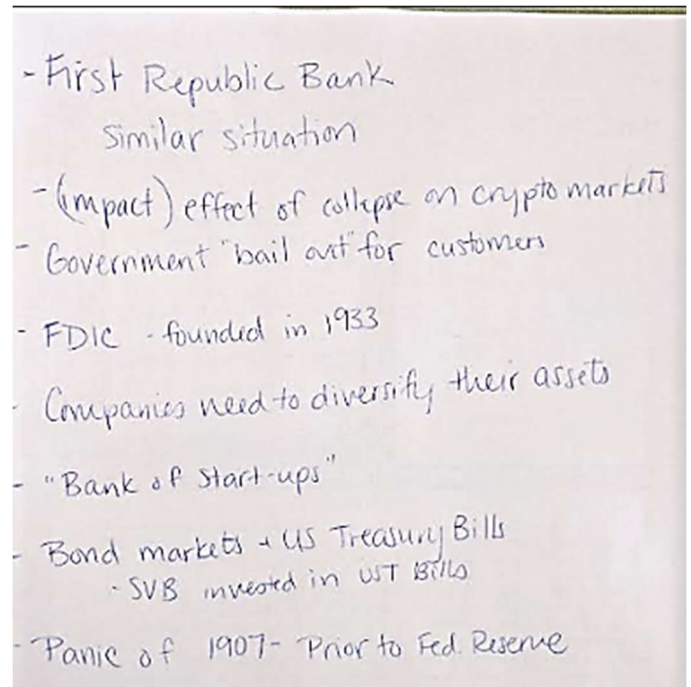
Credit cards have good discounts.

Credit cards have protection (i.e. travel, purchases, etc.)

## Top 7 - Building an Emergency Fund, Planning for the Unexpected

1. Emergency fund: set aside \$1000
2. Calculate your regular expenses: Set aside 3-6 months' expenses.
3. Set up savings goals, make savings a habit
4. Make automatic transfers from checking
5. Every 6 months re-evaluate, if you need to adjust (up or down)
6. Maximize growth of that savings: put into CD, etc.
7. Address problems immediately: USE the emergency fund so you don't get into deeper trouble

## Top 7 Issues – FDIC & Silicon Valley Bank



## Top 7 Arcade Games

NGPF Arcade Games:

<https://www.ngpf.org/search/?q=Arcade>

\*Money Magic

\*Spent

\*Stax

\*Bean Game: (also available as a template on Canva) This is not "virtual" but a really great game about budgeting!

<https://www.ngpf.org/blog/budgeting/extensions-to-the-bean-game/>

\*Claim Your Future:

<https://www.claimyourfuture.org/play/>

\*Hit the Road:

<https://jumpstartclearinghouse.org/resource/hit-the-road/>

\*How the Market Works:

<https://www.howthemarketworks.com/>

## Top 7 Advice Nuggets for New Homeowners

1. Have a maintenance schedule and a house-specific savings account. Research what things will cost as you make the schedule.
2. Include bills as part of your escrow (property tax, house insurance, PMI)
3. Pay mortgage bills bi-weekly rather than monthly to make 2 extra payments per year.
4. Prioritize projects: Tackle them one at a time (start with changing the locks and stagger large appliance purchases)
5. Research specific loans and rebates when large purchases are needed
6. Be wise with your use of home equity (it is not for vacations or credit card payments)
7. Join the neighborhood facebook group

## Top 7 (looks like 9!) to Follow on Instagram



## Top 7 Budgeting Tips - Spending Plan

*"Have a plan for your expenses before your expenses have a plan for you!"*

1. Have a budget
2. Review and adjust often
3. Add 15% for buffer (miscellaneous)
4. 10-20% goes to savings
5. Expect the unexpected (know where to put or pull extra)
6. Find a format that works for you (paper vs digital)
7. Make a zero-based budget.