

Takin' Care of Business



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Attitudes, Values, & Beliefs Guide Us

We all have our own values, beliefs and attitudes. We develop these over the course of our lives. Family, friends, community and experiences we have had all help us who we are and how we view the world. Our attitudes, values, and beliefs guide the choices we make and how we act.

Attitudes are how we think for feel about something. It usually describes what we think is the "best". The attitudes we have shape the way we see the world. A person with a negative attitude, for example, tends to see things wrong with everything. A person with a positive attitude gives others a chance and doesn't quickly judge things as bad.

You can think of "attitudes" as a special pair of eyeglasses that colors the world. Do you want a bright and colorful view of everything or would you choose everything to look dark and even scary?

Values are ideas an individual or group of people hold in high regard. Values guide how we live our lives. They guide our decisions. A value may be defined as something that we hold dear, those things/qualities which we consider to be worthy. For example, some people value technology as a tool to get things done and to reach our goals. Others may value technology as something we use for entertainment and to connect with our friends. In each case, the way we value technology determines how we are likely to use it. The way we value technology determines how we adapt as technology changes.

Beliefs the things we believe are true. They come from real experiences, but often we often forget that the original experience is not the same as what is happening in life now. The things we think are

What is Financial Literacy?

The President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy defines personal financial literacy as "the ability to use knowledge and skills to manage financial resources effectively for a lifetime of financial well-being." (2008 Annual Report to the President)

Personal financial literacy is more than just being able to save money, balance a checkbook, compare prices, get a job, pay bills, and manage credit. It also includes skills like long-term vision and planning for the future, and the discipline to use those skills every day.

In the US, we make great efforts to teach children to read and write. We even give students regular tests to check how well they learn these skills. But we don't give their financial literacy the same attention. As a result, many young adults have questions about managing their personal financial lives. Who do we turn to for the answer? Our parents may or may not be able to help us. Our friends may or may not know what we need.

While there is a lot of good information on the Web, there is also bad information. Some "financial experts" just want to sell us products and services. In order to do good research, we need to be able to:

1. **Identify Our Information Needs.** This is hard to do unless we have enough background information to get started.
2. **Find Sources for Information.** While we can do general internet searches, there are many great webs that specialize exactly in the information areas we have needs.
3. **Evaluate Information.** Does a website have an agenda? Is it accurate? Does it exist to sell us something? Is the information current?

Financial literacy is about being prepared for your future. Are you ready?

true determine how we see things. We tend to think that our beliefs are based on reality, but it is our beliefs that govern our experiences. In other words, things we assume to be true shape how we experience life. We may hold mistaken beliefs and not even know it, because these mistaken beliefs shape what we do, see, and how we act.

Attitudes, Values, Beliefs and Financial Literacy

Why does a class about how to manage our finances begin with attitudes, values, and beliefs?

Because planning our finances is guided by how we see ourselves. The attitudes we hold matter. The values we

place on different ways to be successful are important. The beliefs we have, right or wrong, shape how we perceive experiences.

Financial planning is all about learning to get where we want to go with the resources we have. The ways we spend, save, and invest money should be part of a plan if we want to be in control of our lives.

High School students have many choices ahead. Remember the 4 Ps of Life: **Planning Prevents Poor Performance!**

Your future is worth too much to be left to chance. A plan is a track that lets us run and helps us achieve. Plan for success!

