

#1

CFLs

(Compact Fluorescent Lights)

Taylor's dad wants Taylor to replace the 100 watt incandescent bulbs in grandma's house with appropriate CFLs to save money on household energy. Taylor estimates there are 9 bulbs to replace. His grandmother needs good lighting for her hobbies. Which of the CFLs will be the most effective and energy efficient in meeting grandma's needs?

Placing:

4	3	1	2
---	---	---	---

Cuts: 10

2

5

3

#4 Sylvania Soft White

- Longer life than #3 (2,000 hours more).
- More efficient energy, it burns 23 watts versus #3 which burns 26 watts.
- Is 1600 lumens so and 100 watts fro Grandma's hobbies.

#3 Great Value Soft White

- Though a \$1.25 less per bulb than #4, it would need to be replaced more frequently 5 years versus #4 which has a 9 year life.
- Higher energy watts, 26 compared to #4.
- Brighter than #1 because it gives more lumens (#3 1700 versus 61100 lumens for #1).

#2 General Electric Soft White

- More expensive than #3 and lower wattage as well criteria asked for 100 watt and #3 is 75 watt.

#2 Bright Effects

- Most expensive and least lumens and wattage.
- Does not meet criteria.

2

Credit Cards

Jada is 18 years old and works part time. She wants to take summer classes before she officially begins college in the fall. She has asked her mother if she could apply for a credit card so she can buy books and help pay for tuition. She will need at least a \$500 limit on the card. Her plan is to continue working part time while taking classes. Her mother suggested that Jada shop around and try to get a card with a low interest rate, making sure that after an initial 0% percent offer, the permanent rate would be as low as possible. She should also watch for hidden and late fees, cash advance APR's and annual fees.

Placing:

2	3	4	1
---	---	---	---

Cuts: 9

4

2

3

#2 American Express Blue Card

- This card has a 0% APR for one whole year giving Jada enough time to pay her credit card balance without accruing interest.
- It has the lowest potential for a 12.24% APR, lower than all the other choices.
- Lowest default rate and late fees (given that #3 has a lower late charge but only up to a \$100 balance then #3 fees go up considerably higher).

#3 Citi Visa

- Has a perk of .25% reduction on purchases when in compliance with conditions making it preferable over # 4 or #1.
- Late fees better than #4 or #1

#4 Discover Card

- Has a variable APR which means the APR can vary from month to month.
- The Cash Advance and Late fees are higher than card #2 or #3.
- Does not have an annual fee making a better offer than #1.

#1 Capital one

- Has an annual fee and a shorter 0% time offer than the other cards.

#3

Gift Cards/Prepaid Cards

Laquisha is going with her school orchestra to New York City over spring break. Her dad suggested that she use a prepaid gift card instead of cash for her trip. He told her it would be best if she could find a card that could be replaced if lost or stolen, no limit as to where it could be used, such as restaurants, shopping centers, etc. He told her to watch for hidden fees and preferred that it could be reloaded. Given the above requirements which would be the best choice for Laquisha's needs?

Placing:

4	1	2	3
---	---	---	---

Cuts: 9

4

2

3

#4 Visa Reloadable

- Can comparison shop for the lowest purchase price.
- Can be reloaded – important condition for Laquisha's father.
- Can withdraw cash from ATM if needed.
- Visa Zero liability if lost or stolen.

#1 American Express

- Given that it cannot be reloaded, all other fees are lower than #2 and #3.
- No maintenance fee for up to one year of use.
- Has a low purchase price.

#2 Master Card

- Reloadable but higher fees than #4 and #1.
- Has a monthly maintenance fee.

#3 Discover

- Cannot use at ATMs.
- Limited access – may not be accepted at some locations.

#4

Gold Jewelry

Phoebe would like to purchase a necklace for her prom. She will wear a purple dress and thinks that white gold would be a good choice as she is allergic to certain metals such as nickel and copper. Her mother told her that she would give her \$50 dollars for the purchase as part of Phoebe's graduation present. Phoebe has \$50 of her own money, but wants to make sure the necklace is something she can wear after the prom as well. Which of the following would be the best choice?

Placing:

3	4	1	2
---	---	---	---

Cuts: 11

3

4

4

#4 10kt White Gold and Cut Amethyst Necklace

- The chain is made of 10kt white gold and will not cause an allergic reaction on Phoebe's skin.
- It is the right color to match her dress could also be worn with complementary colors.
- Because it is white gold with a simple yet elegant design, it can be worn both with casual or formal attire.
- Though the most expensive, it is still within her budget and would be a good addition to her jewelry collection for a long time to come.

#3 Teardrop Necklace

- It is a better price than #3, but the chain is silver with white gold overlay where #4 is solid 10kt white gold.
- The filigree detail would make it too dressy to wear with casual attire such as jeans.
- The thin chain may break more easily than # 4.

1 Rhodium-plated CZ Necklace

- The metal is Rhodium and might cause an allergic reaction on Phoebe's skin.
- Though it may be suitable for prom, it may not be appropriate to wear with casual attire.

#2 Flower Necklace

- Phoebe has no way of knowing if she would have an allergic reaction to the metal because the information does not specify the type of metal used and a bit more expensive than # 1.

#5

Roth IRA's

Tom will be a senior in high school in the fall. This summer he got a job with a local business mowing lawns and doing general yard-work for people around his town. As a 4-H member of the Lucky Clover Club, he learned about Roth IRA's for working kids, and has decided to investigate a little further.

Tom expects to gross around \$100 per week over the next twelve weeks. He's willing to set aside 25% of what he earns this summer in a Roth IRA. When his grandmother, a retired accountant, found out about his plans, she promised to give him an equal amount of money for his Roth as a "match."

Tom will be put away money for the long run in a Roth IRA and hopes to add to it every year over his working life. Which of the following Roth IRAs would you recommend to him as he gets started?

Placing:

3	4	1	2
---	---	---	---

Cuts: 10

2

5

3

#3 ING Direct - CD

- No minimum balance to open the account.
- No fees
- Competitive interest rates
- FDIC insured
- Principle is safe

#4 Ameritrade - Auto Company Stock

- Fee to purchase shares
- Requires 100 minimum investment

#1 Wells Fargo - CD

- Tom doesn't have \$1000 minimum to invest
- No annual custodial fee
- FDIC insured

#2 Vanguard – Retirement Funds

- While fees are low, Tom doesn't have minimum requirement of \$3,000.

#6

Sun Protective Clothing

Stephen is planning to go tubing over the weekend and wants to wear a shirt to cover his shoulders so he won't get sunburned. He plans to wear sunscreen, but knows that he will be in the water for about 5 hours. He will need something that stretches as well as provides 30+ SPF sun protection for his arms. His budget is \$60. Which of the following would be the best choice to protect Stephen from harsh UV rays?

Placing:

4	2	3	1
---	---	---	---

Cuts: 11

3

4

4

#4 Triple J SunSafe® - Men's AquaShirt

- The dark color provides greater protection than the other choices.
- Meets all specifications regarding stretchy material and long sleeves.
- Meets the 30+ SPF rating.
- Better price than # 2.

#2 Coolibar – Men's Long-sleeve Swim Shirt

- Meets the SPF rating criteria.
- Stretchy material and has long sleeves.
- It is a lighter color than #4.

3 Solartex – Unisex Rash Guard Shirt

- This shirt is less expensive than # 2, but has short sleeves and will not protect the arms from the sun.

#1 Solumbra - Full Zip Surf Shirt

- Price is over budget.
- Light color means less protection.
- Does not give the specific SPF rating.

#7

Used Cars

Daniel is in the process of looking for a used vehicle that will get him to school and work. He has been working for two years and has saved \$3500. His grandfather promised he would match the funds. He would prefer a truck with low mileage and at least 20 MPG (Hwy), but would settle for a car in good condition that gets more than 27 MPG (Hwy). His grandfather is concerned about safety ratings and wants to compare the dealership prices to the Kelly Blue Book value. Both Daniel and his grandfather agree that purchasing from a dealership is the wisest choice for them. Which of the following selections would best suit Daniel's needs?

Placing:

4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---

Cuts: 9

2

4

3

#4 2002 Honda Civic

- The Honda Civic is within the Kelly Blue Book value.
- It is in good interior and exterior condition and lower mileage than the Toyota Tacoma.
- Has a “good” crash test rating – important for safety.
- Though it is not a truck which Daniel would prefer, it does get the best gas mileage of any of the vehicles.

#3 2000 Toyota Tacoma Xtra Cab

- The crash test rating is good – better than items #2 and #1.
- The asking price is above the budget and the suggested Kelly Bluebook value, but gives room to negotiate the price to be within budget.
- It is older and has more mileage than the Civic.

#2 2001 Toyota Celica CTS

- Though the Toyota Celica has less miles than the Tacoma, Daniel would have preferred a truck over a car.
- The crash test rating was not available for this car which makes it less desirable than the Tacoma.

#1 2002 Ford F-150

- It had the lowest MPG rate of 17 city and 21 Hwy.
- Though it had the lowest miles of all the vehicles, the “poor” safety rating made it a less desirable choice than the others.

#8

GPS (Mystery Class)

Zack will be traveling frequently with his father over the summer. His father would like to buy a GPS for the car, and wants to be able to see the screen easily, He would like it to have voice capability, a USB port so he can download the most up to date maps available before each trip, and also mount it on the dashboard. His budget is \$180. Which would be the best choice.

Placing:

1	2	4	3
---	---	---	---

Cuts: 10

2

4

4

#1 Garmin - nüvi 255W GPS

- Meets all criteria.
- Has a larger screen than # 2.
- Though it is a bit more expensive than #2, it is on sale making it a better value.
- It does have USB capability, but is not include in the price.
- Has a turn-by-turn voice prompt and is less expensive than #3 or #4.

#2 TomTom

- Does not appear to have voice capability
- The screen is smaller than #1.
- Has the best price of all the choices.

#4 Magellan RoadMate 1400 GPS Unit

- It is more expensive than # 1 and #2.
- Has both a dash mount and windshield mount.
- Has voice prompt and built in maps.

3 eTrex Venture HC Personal GOS Navigator

- Is a hand held personal navigation GPS for camping and hiking.
- Though it has extra features, it is the most expensive of all the choices.
- Has a very small screen.