

Navigating Hidden Fees and Tricky Credit Card Terms

SUBJECT(S): Personal Finance

GRADE LEVEL(S): 9, 10, 11, 12

≡ OVERVIEW:

Credit cards are a great tool to have, but learning how to use them to your advantage is a skill worth knowing. Don't throw away money on hidden fees or be confused by tricky terms.

≡ NBEA STANDARD(S):

- Personal Finance, VII. Using Credit

≡ RELATED ARTICLES:

- [“Zina Kumok: ‘Getting My First Credit Card Was So Exciting’”](#)
- [“Understanding the Mobile Wallet Market”](#)
- [“The Power of Plastic: What to Know about What You Owe”](#)
- [“Opening a Bank Account: Be the Boss of Your Own Money”](#)
- [“Olivia Mitchell on Why Young Consumers Should Just Say No to Spending”](#)
- [“FinTech Puts Money Management at Your Fingertips”](#)
- [“College Decisions Sometimes Require Sacrifice”](#)
- [“Budgeting Basics: Spending Less than You Earn”](#)
- [“A Smart Virtual Cart: How to Be a Savvy Online Consumer”](#)

TOPIC/COMPETENCY: Credit and Debt

CEE National Standard:

IV Using Credit

Jump\$tart National Standard: Credit and Debt

Standard 3, *Describe ways to avoid or correct debt problems*

Standard 4, *Summarize major consumer credit laws*

Common Core State Standard:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.9-10.4

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.11-12.2

ESTIMATED TIME: 50 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED: Internet access, computer, mobile device, [guided notes](#), [worksheet](#)

KEY VOCABULARY/TERMS: [teaser rate](#) (introductory APR), [APR](#), [balance transfers](#), [credit card](#), [zero percent](#), [credit card interest](#),

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU NOW: Credit cards are a great tool to have, but learning how to use them to your advantage is a skill worth knowing. Don't throw away money on hidden fees or be confused by tricky terms.

_____ 1. The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 (also known as the [Credit CARD Act](#) or the Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights) was created to enforce fairness and transparency for consumers. The act benefited consumers in many ways, helping them become more aware of how credit card companies operate. Have students read the following article – [CARD Act Factsheet](#) – and take guided notes with the provided worksheet.

_____ 2. Advise students to review credit card offers carefully. Some terms of a credit card are only “teasers,” meaning that the great low rate will expire in a given amount of time or that accrued interest can be charged if the balance is not paid off in full. To help students compare credit cards and their differing terms, have them complete the Credit Card Offers worksheet using [creditcards.com](#).

ASSESSMENT

Complete the reflection questions on the back of the Credit Card Offers worksheet. Students will reflect on the differing offers and what each option means to them.

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