

Winning Essays
South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs
2009-2010 Essay Contest
“If I Had \$100, I Would...”

\$100 Lesson
by Taylor Covington
Ewing Middle School

If I had \$100 I'd bank it, save it, watch it build. The most common discussion subject today is tomorrow. How long will we sit here, our head in our hands, wondering about tomorrow? We no longer ignore the scattered pennies along the sidewalk, but kneel to retrieve them. I'd like to learn financial sensibility, to prepare myself for the future, in case another recession reappears.

As I stroll through the scenic campus of Duke University, I'll know I'm meant to be someone. I'll know what brought me there, investing that \$100 which has increased in value. With my education, I'll take risks, spread my wings and soar high above the clouds, landing behind a desk at the CNN news channel. As the final brush sweeps color over my cheekbones, I'll take my place behind the desk. Education is precious and costly, but any contribution counts, and helps achieve my dream.

“We just can't do it this Christmas,” a father explains as a child's head drops, tears spilling over his eyes, staining his cheeks. “Times are hard son,” the father says wiping the boy's tears, “maybe next year.” I never want to deliver this news to my child. Handling \$100 will be great practice. A life of luxury isn't my aim, just contentment.

The money itself isn't the bulk of the value; it's merely paper with Benjamin Franklin's image printed on it. The value is the lesson it portrays. Its lesson on saving will affect me way after it's gone.

If I Had One Hundred Dollar
by Sarah Feingold
Charleston Catholic School

If I had one hundred dollars, I would make my money grow, and then I would use that growth to put an end to cancer. Four years ago, my siblings and I lost our sister Grace to leukemia, a type of cancer. Grace was very special to me. She was a triplet and was born with Down syndrome, which is caused by an extra

chromosome. We like to say that she had designer genes! She was very beautiful, with sparkling blue eyes and a smile that made her face glow like the full moon. Grace worked extremely hard, and she even learned to read by the time she was 3 years old, just before she died. I want to work extra hard to make sure children with disabilities never feel excluded.

We honor Grace by selling stamps throughout our neighborhood. The proceeds go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS), and we have raised over \$500 for cancer research. We used the money to support our parents, who completed a marathon and a triathlon for LLS.

We just learned that our P.E. teacher, Ms. Penninger, has lymphoma. To support her, my Spanish teacher, Ms. Navarro, is running a marathon for the LLS. I want to help Ms. Navarro with my business. If I bought \$100 dollars worth of stamps, I could raise nearly \$150. That money could be used to buy more stamps, to raise even more money for Ms. Navarro, as she runs for Ms. Penninger and Grace.

If I Had 100
by Andrew Zeringue
Moultrie Middle School

If I had one hundred dollars I would probably beg my mom to go to EB Games. Then she would say, "Andrew, you need to save your money!" This time however is different from all those other times. Recently, my mom told me about a man named Randy Burch.

Mr. Burch's story is sad. He was born with dwarfism and had health problems because of that. He lives along highway 41, and went to JME and Wando. He lost his eye in a terrible car accident. To add to that, he is in a wheelchair most of the time due to problems with his back and neck. His mother, who always took care of him, passed away, and two years ago his trailer burned down.

Recently, Mr. Burch's luck began to change. Some local residents would pass him on their way home to Dunes West. Every time they went by, Randy was there. Finally, they decided to stop and talk to him. His story broke their hearts and they knew something must be done. After that, the Randy Burch Campaign was started.

The campaign has worked to get Mr. Burch a new home that he can move around in with his wheelchair. They hope to raise enough to have him a new home by Christmas. Many people are helping out.

If I won a hundred dollars, I would donate it to the Randy Burch Campaign. I think this time EB Games can wait.

Click
by Sojo Tripp
Moultrie Middle School

If I had one hundred dollars, I would...wait a second! I am in the middle of the story. Let's go where it all began.

One day I asked myself, "What would I do with one hundred dollars?" then I thought, "One hundred dollars doesn't buy much. I could buy legos. Naaaaaaa! I already have millions of those. I could buy a new camera." Then it dawned on me, "I'll open a nature photography shop. I already had a camera from Christmas. It was the perfect plan.

I put my money in the bank and did many odd jobs to help save for a better camera. I eventually got enough money for the camera. For my photography, my mom and dad took me for a boat ride. I got a lot of good, pretty, pictures. One of them was my best seller. It was a picture of a ghost crab.

My business soared. People from all over the country ordered my pictures. Most of them were tourist. At the time I just finished collage. People considered me very lucky to find my dream job so early. I even saw a painting of one of my pictures! I even made a picture book of the south marshes. I was the happiest man in the world!

When I retired I was age 71. My business was very successful and it still is. I loved my job. To think it all started with winning one hundred dollars from an essay contest is unbelievable.

If I Had \$100, I Would...
by Travaisha Shaw
Felton Laboratory School

If I had \$100, I would use it to buy personal items for myself, a rose for my mother and help a less fortunate person than myself. These three choices will allow me to reward myself, appreciate someone I love, and help another person.

The first nine weeks of this school year, I earned all A's on my report card! As a reward to myself, I would buy a few personal items. Lip gloss would be one of the items I would purchase for myself. If I had more lip gloss, I would be able to wear any flavor that I desire. Furthermore, I would appreciate some new clothes and shoes. Our school requires uniforms, and on weekends and occasions when we are permitted wear our own choice of clothing, I get really excited about dressing up!

Next, I would buy my mother a rose to show her how much I love and appreciate her. Whenever I need assistance with an assignment, she is always there to make sure I have everything I need to accomplish

my goal. Additionally, my mother gives me advice whenever I do not know what to do in a complex situation. I frequently tell her “thank you,” but if I gave her a rose, this would show my appreciation for her even more.

Finally, I would find a charity to donate to this holiday. For the most part, the money situation for people in America is really bad right now. On the news almost daily, there are reports of how people are losing their jobs and homes. This worries me. My family is very, very blessed. My wish is for each family to be as fortunate as we are this holiday season.

As I have mentioned, if I had \$100, I would use it to do three things, to reward myself, appreciate someone I love, and help another person. What would you do if you had \$100?