

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Directions*

In this assignment, you will be asked to visit the Denver Public Library in downtown Denver, Colorado. While there, you will find the answers to a series of questions about making a budget using old newspapers on microfilm. Your assignment will end with an essay summarizing your trip.

# FAMILY FIELD TRIP: DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET ASSIGNMENT



You are encouraged to visit the Denver Public Library as a supplement to our historical unit on 19<sup>th</sup> Century America. You will be asked to do research in the microfilm records of 120-year-old newspapers. The research will be used to make a budget.

**Location:** The Denver Public library is located at **10 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. Parkway** in downtown Denver.

**Distance:** The library is about thirteen miles from Arvada. Parking is in a big building across the street.

**Admission charge:** The library is free. Library hours: Monday - 10-8 Tuesday 10-8 Wednesday 10-6 Thursday 10-6 Friday 10-6 Saturday 9-5 Sunday 1-5. The phone number is 720-865-1111.

The purpose of this activity is:

- To research primary source documents in the Denver Public Library.
- To gain a better understanding of costs and prices in 19<sup>th</sup> century Denver.
- To understand more about making a budget.

## **PART I: GATHERING THE DATA:**

### The set-up:

- Go to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Denver Public Library. Go into the Western History Collection and ask for help at the desk. Tell them you need to learn to read a microfilm reader. (It may help to have a parent along with you on this project)
- Get a microfilm roll from the files for sometime in the year 1892. Pick either the Denver Post or the Rocky Mountain News.
- Find an open microfilm reader (you may have to wait since these machines get heavy usage), and thread the microfilm through.
- Now you are ready to begin.

### The task:

- Assume you are twenty-four years old, just got married, and looking to start a new life in the big city of Denver, Colorado.
- You received a wedding gift of \$100.
- Spend the money using the prices in the advertisements in these newspapers. Advertisements for rentals are probably towards the back of the paper. Ads for furniture may be sprinkled about the first half of the paper.
- Required items:
  - First month's rent for an apartment or a house.
  - Furniture to put in your new place. (Living room, dining room, and a bedroom.)
- The rest of your purchases are up to you, but purchase things you could keep and use for a while (Don't go over budget.) Have fun!

### Hint:

- Don't try to look at every day of the year. Any day is fine. You should be able to get everything you need from one issue. It takes a while to get used to working the reader. Prepare to spend a couple hours getting the information you need.
- USE THIS ASSIGNMENT AS A ROUGH DRAFT, AND TYPE IT UP NEATLY ON YOUR OWN PAPER.

**HOUSE OR APARTMENT:**

**COST:**

**DESCRIPTION:**

**ADDRESS (IF POSSIBLE):**

**DINING ROOM FURNITURE:**

**TYPES AND DESCRIPTIONS:**

**LIVING ROOM FURNITURE:**

**TYPES AND DESCRIPTIONS:**

**BEDROOM ROOM FURNITURE:**

**TYPES AND DESCRIPTIONS:**

**OTHER ITEMS:**

## **PART II: ESSAY SECTION:**

When you are done with the short answer section, write a solidly composed fourteen-sentence essay on the following topic:

- ***Describe your trip to the Denver Public Library, your adventures using microfilm, and how making this budget helped you better understand your Social Studies class.***

## **STANDARDS FOR GRADING THE LIBRARY BUDGET ASSIGNMENT:**

### **GRADE C:**

1. The requirements for a C are the same as for a B except that there are one or two errors or omissions that would prevent the student from getting a B.

### **GRADE B:**

1. The budget shows prices that seem realistic and plausible.
2. The budget has data for each of three rooms in the house.
3. The essay question is of proper length and written in complete sentences.
4. The essay question(s) addresses the topic clearly.
5. The assignment has all the required elements.
6. The assignment is neatly done and carefully proofread with no more than four typos or spelling errors.

### **GRADE A:**

1. The budget meets all the requirements for a "B".
2. The essay question shows outstanding effort and analysis as well as an exceptional overall understanding of the topic chosen.
3. The essay is carefully proofread with no more than two typos or spelling errors.
4. The assignment is word-processed.
5. The assignment includes a neatly done cover page.