**Personal Finance Reflection Paper (100 points)**

**Due: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9** at midnight (upload to Moodle)

**Select one of the following books to read in its entirety:**

* Bernstein, William (2003)  *The Four Pillars of Investing: Lessons for Building a Winning Portfolio*
* Cramer, Jim (2013) *Get Rich Carefully*
* Hardy, Darren (2012) *The Compound Effect*
* Lowry, Erin (2017) *Broke Millennial: Stop Scraping By and Get Your Financial Life Together*
* Olen, Helaine and Pollack, Harold (2017 ) *The Index Card: Why Personal Finance Doesn’t Have to Be Complicated*
* Orman, Suze (2007) *The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous and Broke*
* Palmer, Kimberly (2010) *Generation Earn: The Young Professionals Guide to Spending, Investing & Giving Back*
* Ramsey, Dave (2013) *The Total Money Makeover*
* Stanley, Thomas J. and Danko, William D. (2010) *The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America’s Wealthy*
* Vitug, Jason (2016) *You Only Live Once: the Roadmap to Financial Wellness and a Purposeful Life*

If you would like to choose a different personal finance book, instructor must approve before **Monday, February 14.**

**Paper Requirements:**

**LENGTH:** There is NOT a page limit but typical papers are approximately 5 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, using Times New Roman font. Reference page is NOT included in your page count. Please include page numbers.

**FORMAT:** Paper should be prepared according to the APA style formatting including:

* Title page: Name, Title of Paper, Class Time, Date
* Body
* References: end of paper with centered title “References”
* Margins: one inch per side
* Page numbers: Bottom right corner of every page (in footer)

**CONTENT:** In response to the reading prepare a paper:

* Identifying three to five financial tools or strategies from the book.
* Explain how you will implement each strategy in your own life.
* Explain the expected personal result of each financial tool or strategy.
* Support selected strategies by reference to other external sources (***minimum of 3 additional sources is required)***

Source suggestions:

Suggested library databases: Business Source Premier and ABI Inform

Good sources in the popular press are the *Wall Street Journal*, *The* *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Business Insider, Forbes, Fortune, Inc., Entrepreneur, Bloomberg Businessweek,* and *Fast Company.*

**GOOD WRITING TIPS**

BE CONSICE: Delete unnecessary words, phrases, and sentences to drastically improve your writing. Scientific writing is concise and to-the-point!

REVISE AND REWRITE: Good writing takes hard work. Give yourself enough time to take a break from the paper. Time away from the paper provides perspective regarding organization and allows the opportunity to find technical errors.

CITATIONS: It is imperative that you use good citation habits. It is plagiarism to use other writers’ words and IDEAS.

QUOTATIONS: Quotations should generally not be used.

AVOID SLANG. USE PROFESSIONAL LANGUAGE

“conducted a study” instead of “did a study”

“examined” instead of “looked at”

“utilize” instead of “use” (where appropriate)

“great deal” instead of “a lot”

“furthermore” instead of run-on sentences

USE ASSISTANCE OF WRITING CENTER WHEN NEEDED.

Grading:

\_\_\_\_Clearly identifies a **minimum of three** financial tools or strategies.

\_\_\_\_Develops a well-thought out idea, explains it clearly, and shows specifically how the strategies will be applied.

\_\_\_\_Demonstrates the ability to synthesize information from reputable sources and compile various opinions about the strategies.

\_\_\_\_Reports the expected result from the strategies applied.

\_\_\_\_References a **minimum of three sources outside book** to support strategy; uses in-text citations appropriately

Other elements of grading:

\_\_\_\_Clarity \_\_\_\_Insights \_\_\_\_Writing

\_\_\_\_Thoroughness \_\_\_\_Organization & Formatting \_\_\_\_Grammar

\_\_\_\_Insights \_\_\_\_Works cited \_\_\_\_Spelling