

## **Winning Cash Composition Contest Essays**

### **Cash Composition Topic:**

What is the difference between an investment and savings? What would be a good investment for you? What would be a good investment for your community to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive environment? Why? Please discuss how your community and you would benefit from these investments.

### **Anna Schroeder**

When dealing with finances, investments and savings are some of the most important factors to understand when handling money and making smart financial decisions. While it might not be too obvious, there is a difference between investments and savings. Investments focus on purchasing something that will help you gain profit in the long run (ex: stocks or bonds) whereas saving means setting aside money for later use.

An investment that would be beneficial to me would be putting money towards my college education. I plan to attend a university to study in Hippotherapy once I finish foundation schooling. I would choose a 529 plan over a savings account because a 529 plan would gain more interest. The earlier I can start investing, the more the interest will grow. This will allow me to pay off college fees easier.

For my community, a good investment would be putting money towards purchasing electronic devices and school supplies for students in a low-income community that is unable to provide for themselves. During these current times, many people have lost their jobs and because of this may not be able to afford the necessary tools to attend the virtual schooling that many of us are dealing with today. If this investment program was implemented in our community, I believe that it would help to make a better learning environment for students attending virtual schooling. It would help create a more equitable and inclusive community by allowing students who do not have access to electronic devices to receive the same educational opportunities as students who do have access to them.

In conclusion, it's important for the youth of our community to learn and understand financial management. Putting in the effort to learn about investments and savings is a worthwhile skill that will help our generation to be smarter about handling money.

### **Harper-Jane Adkins**

How do you calculate the return on your investment? If you buy a stock for seven dollars and sell it for ten, is that a profitable return? Or are all investments about money?

Saving is setting aside money for a specific purpose. I practice saving by being conscious of what I purchase and by setting aside money for college. Investing is putting money into something hoping to make money in return. But how do you measure that outcome?

I invest in my 4-H auction project each year by buying a newborn calf for \$100. While my calf grows, I invest more money in food, vaccinations, housing, and vet visits if necessary. In caring for my calf, I also invest my time and hard work. Throughout the project, I acquire time and money management and gain experience about caring for livestock. After the auction, I receive a check for the selling price. However, there is no guarantee that I will make a substantial monetary profit. The principle profit for young people raising livestock for auction is not the monetary outcome. Instead, the primary return on this investment is the experience.

Investments can go beyond personal experiences. Many investments can benefit entire communities. I believe wheelchair accessible playground equipment would be an excellent investment for my community. With endless options on the market, there is a wide range of price points for different budgets. Additions such as wheelchair accessible ramps, swings, and merry-go-rounds would benefit my entire community, including me and my friends. There would be no need for additional tax dollars for my city, we could use some of the money that my community has already set aside for parks and recreation. Using the money that's already been collected, my community could add onto pre-existing parks. Playground equipment can last for decades, and would give the opportunity for all children to be included and considered important.

Decisions like these would benefit communities in a remarkable way. Children in wheelchairs could remain engaged while visiting the park with siblings. All children regardless of ability would be welcome at the park.

Furthermore, this investment educates people while giving the opportunity to love and accept people regardless of ability. The gift of play is priceless and brings people together, making them no longer seem so different. Just like my investment in a calf, it's difficult to measure the price of education, play and experience that children will benefit from. Perhaps people from other communities would be drawn to visit the inclusive playgrounds, generating business for local restaurants and shops. The main objective will be recreation everybody can enjoy, fostering acceptance, and learning through play; something unmeasurable.

### **Brannon Roose**

"Whether it be money, time or heart, invest wisely."

An investment is when you put money towards something with the hope to make a profit. Examples include investing in a business or stocks. One can also make investments of time towards a goal. A savings account is a place to safely store money. My parents helped me open an MSU Credit Union savings account to store my money that earns .05% interest paid by the bank. The difference between investing and savings is risk and time. A good investment for me is service and learning to get into college. This is an investment in my future job and career.

I have invested a lot of time and heart into performing arts. It is my program interest in 4H and I am also studying performing arts at school. Before the pandemic, I was cast in a play at my local community theater. As one door closed, another one opened as I connected with MSU's Wharton Center virtual classes last summer and during this school year. This investment of time has helped me grow as a performer, work with Broadway professionals and meet diverse people from all over the U.S.

A good community investment could be a benefit performance in my region with spoken word, theater, music and visual art. This benefit would include performances from local artists and 4Hers. This is a good investment that includes working with talent and diversity. We could use this as an opportunity to sell visual art and spread the word about 4H and get new members. We could also wisely invest the money to help pay for new memberships and use part of the money to help fund some arts projects to support our community.

### **Stella Rebitzke**

If you want to save up for something you can open a savings account at your local bank. When you have money that is available to save for later, you can put it in your savings account. When you saved enough money for your goal, you can take the money out and use it.

An investment is the action of putting money into something or “investing” in a business, property, or a stock with the expectation of making a profit. A great investment would be to buy a stock then you get money each quarter of the year. You can choose to put your money into your bank, spend it, or, like I did reinvest it into your stock for higher profits. Your choice should depend on the reliability and performance of the company that your stock is in.

I think a great community investment would be purchasing a property to build a park. You should think about what features benefit everyone. Some investments could be swings. You could get different kinds of swings like baby swings, regular, tire swings, and handicapped swings. You could put benches in and have stairs and ramps leading to a pavilion. Adding a fenced in area for dog owners. This would be an example of a diverse playground. It has something for old and young, handicapped or able, and for pet owners. You need a plan when investing in a property. I think this would make everyone feel welcome.

### **Jillian Richards**

Putting money aside is important, but how you do so makes a huge impact on your life. You could keep savings in a piggy bank, a savings or checking account, for example. Another option would be investing, which is buying assets with the possibility of earning more money, such as buying stocks, bonds, or real estate. With savings you will earn little money, if at all, but you're not likely to lose any. You frequently can earn more money with an investment, but with a risk of losing some.

College would be an excellent personal investment. First, I can invest money to make college more affordable, such as using a 529 plan. Then, pursuing higher education will likely provide me a higher paying job, which gives me the opportunity to have more investments, such as a house and retirement accounts.

An investment that would help my community would be increasing school funding and academic enrichment activities through the school. This would benefit my community because it would make students more excited to go to school with new educational opportunities, such as science labs, new books, hands-on learning opportunities, and field trips. It would be equitable to allow the entire school population access to the enrichment, so students are not left out for not having transportation or additional costs. As a result, students' attendance would likely increase because they would be more excited to be in school, which would likely increase their grades, and could encourage them to pursue higher education. Increasing school enrichment and funding creates a healthier community with more opportunities for everyone.