Chapter 12

Activity 12-1 Researching an Apartment

**Directions:** Complete the following steps to research the factors associated with renting an apartment.

1. Before you start looking for an apartment, perform an Internet search for *renting your first place.* The articles you find should be helpful in your apartment search.

2. Create an apartment budget to guide you in what you can afford. List your fixed and variable expenses. Remember that renting an apartment involves paying utilities, renters insurance, and other expenses. Make sure you do your homework and know exactly how much money you will need.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Fixed Expenses** | **Variable Expenses** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Total fixed expenses: | Total variable expenses: |

3. Determine how much money you have each month for apartment rent. This will take some time. Start working on your budget before you are ready to start looking for an apartment.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monthly income |  |
| Minus total fixed expenses and variable expenses |  |
| Net |  |
|  |  |
| How much can I afford for an apartment? |  |

4. Start the apartment search. After you have decided how much you can afford each month, the next important factor will be location. You will want to find a place that is close to school or work. Ideally, it will be in a safe neighborhood. Identify where you would like to live.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Location | Pros | Cons |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

5. After you select a location, you can use the Internet, newspapers, and other resources to find places that are available for rent. The price must fit within your budget. Select four or five apartments that meet your qualifications.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Apartment Choice | Location | Price |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |
|  |  |  |

6. Ask your instructor where to save your files. This could be on the school’s network or a flash drive of your own. Name your document *FirstnameLastname*\_Activity12-01.docx (i.e., JohnSmith\_Activity12-01.docx).