



BALANCING YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT

Subject: Basic Money Management

Grade Level: Any

Time: 10 minutes

Materials: One copy of the Balance Your Checking Account activity per student or group.

PREPARATION

Print copies before the activity begins. You may want to project the Balance Your Checking Account activity to help with instructions.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by talking to students about the importance of tracking their spending. Many students do not track their spending in a checkbook and just use online banking to check their balance. Point out that online banking is not always accurate. There may be purchases that haven't shown up yet and may mislead them as to how much money is available. This is why it is important to track your spending and balance your checking account.

An easy way for them to balance their checking account is to keep their receipts every time they make a purchase. When the transaction appears on their online banking, they verify it is accurate, then throw the receipt away. This is a very simple method for students to use when they are just starting out.

2. Pass out the Balance Your Checking Account activity. Point out that a snapshot of an online banking account is at the top of the page, and the receipts for recent transactions are at the bottom. The goal is to figure out how much is actually in their account using the receipts.

Common Student Misconceptions:

- Transactions on the online banking screen shot are listed with the most recent balance on the top (\$261.52) and the oldest balance at the bottom (\$384.67). Students may think that the current balance on online banking is \$384.67, but it is actually the balance at the top, \$261.52.
- Students will need to subtract the Starbucks transaction from their current balance because it has not cleared yet.
- Students will also need to subtract \$53.40 for the Arco transaction from their current balance. Students may ask why the Arco transaction is \$1 on the online banking but \$54.40 on the receipt. This is because gas stations often put a small hold on your account with the full amount clearing later. This is why students need to subtract an additional \$53.40.

3. Once students have had enough time to figure out the current balance, go through the process with them:

Current Balance	-	Arco	-	Starbucks	=	Actual Balance
\$261.52	-	\$53.40	-	\$3.78	=	\$204.34

Clear up any misconceptions that students may have.

For other great basic money management resources, including our full Ways to Pay class, please visit www.roguecu.org/learn.

DIRECTIONS:

Use Online Banking history and the receipts below to figure out the ACTUAL amount available in the account.



mobile | activity | settings | log out

Accounts Transfers Pay Bills >

In Process Transactions

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
3/12	Arco	\$1.00	\$261.52
3/12	Amazon	\$51.99	\$262.52
3/12	Home Depot	\$24.90	\$314.51
2/06	Brothers Farm Market	\$45.26	\$339.41
1/01	Gas Station	\$60.00	\$384.67

