

Name: _____

Date: _____

Spent: Can You Make It Through the Month?

(worksheet created by Gordon Gris )

Introduction:

"You're running out of money, fast. Find a job and do whatever it takes to survive a month as a member of the working poor in the United States."



"Spent forces the player to confront difficult decisions about life when living paycheck-to-paycheck. Balance your budget and decide how to spend money without going bankrupt. These are framed within a context of realistic financial and moral problems that force a choice between money and family or ethics. Challenge yourself to finish the month with money left over, a clear conscience, or a combination of both."

Instructions:

1. Go to <http://www.playspent.org> and click the "Play Now" button.
2. Choose the "Prove It - Accept the Challenge" option from opening screen.
3. The left sidebar shows how many "Job Strikes" you have, collect three and you'll be fired.
4. The "Need Cash" options will help with a small infusion of money if you're close to losing.
5. Sound can be turned off at any time by clicking the speaker.
6. On the right sidebar is the month's progression, the "\$" symbol indicates payday.
7. Play the game 5 times. Either until you finish the month or run out of money At least two different jobs should be attempted.

Attempt 1

Job: _____

Weekly Pay: _____

Job Strikes: _____

Final bank balance: _____ **or** Furthest day: _____

Did you opt in for health insurance? Did that factor into any decisions you took during the attempt?

Would you consider your actions to be, overall morally good or bad during this attempt? Provide an example.

What were the two hardest decisions during this attempt? Please write down your final choice for both.

Attempt 2

Job: _____

Weekly Pay: _____

Job Strikes: _____

Final bank balance: _____ **or** Furthest day: _____

Did you opt in for health insurance? Did that factor into any decisions you took during the attempt?

Would you consider your actions to be, overall morally good or bad during this attempt? Provide an example.

What were the two hardest decisions during this attempt? Please write down your final choice for both.

Attempt 3

Job: _____

Weekly Pay: _____

Job Strikes: _____

Final bank balance: _____ **or** Furthest day: _____

Did you opt in for health insurance? Did that factor into any decisions you took during the attempt?

Would you consider your actions to be, overall morally good or bad during this attempt? Provide an example.

What were the two hardest decisions during this attempt? Please write down your final choice for both.

Attempt 4

Job: _____

Weekly Pay: _____

Job Strikes: _____

Final bank balance: _____ **or** Furthest day: _____

Did you opt in for health insurance? Did that factor into any decisions you took during the attempt?

Would you consider your actions to be, overall morally good or bad during this attempt? Provide an example.

What were the two hardest decisions during this attempt? Please write down your final choice for both.

Attempt 5

Job: _____

Weekly Pay: _____

Job Strikes: _____

Final bank balance: _____ **or** Furthest day: _____

Did you opt in for health insurance? Did that factor into any decisions you took during the attempt?

Would you consider your actions to be, overall morally good or bad during this attempt? Provide an example.

What were the two hardest decisions during this attempt? Please write down your final choice for both.

Review your choices for the “two hardest decisions” question from each attempt. Choose the top five and rank the decisions from the most to least difficult:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Describe how your playstyle changed during the later attempts; specifically, what did you do to succeed that you didn't do the first few times?

What 'Result' screen had the most surprising fact? Why?

Go online and search for Toronto-based organizations that help those living in poverty and answer the following questions:

Who does this group help (ages, locations, gender, sexual orientation)?

What is their central mission?

What services do they offer to help?

How could you help this group, using the new knowledge and information from the 'Spent' activity?