

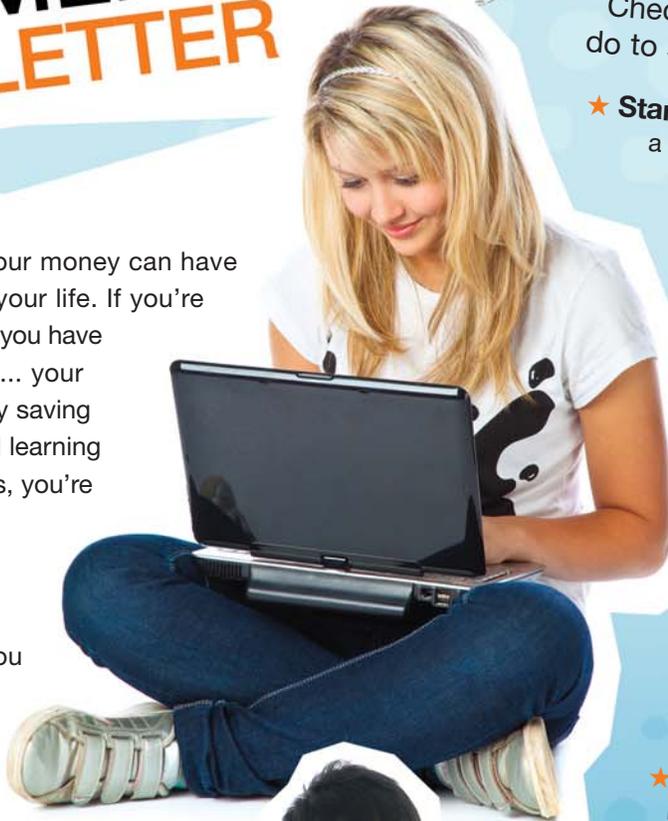


## WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE ELEMENTS NEWSLETTER

## money tips for students

How you handle your money can have a huge impact on your life. If you're under 18 years old, you have a huge advantage ... your age! That's right. By saving at a young age and learning smart money habits, you're taking a giant step toward financial independence.

We want to help you take that giant step forward. Each issue of the **elements**<sup>™</sup> newsletter will feature articles all about money: how to make it, save it, spend it, borrow it and invest it. We'll cover it all, from paying for college and finding scholarships, to shopping online or protecting yourself from identity theft. So relax and enjoy the **elements**<sup>™</sup> newsletter.



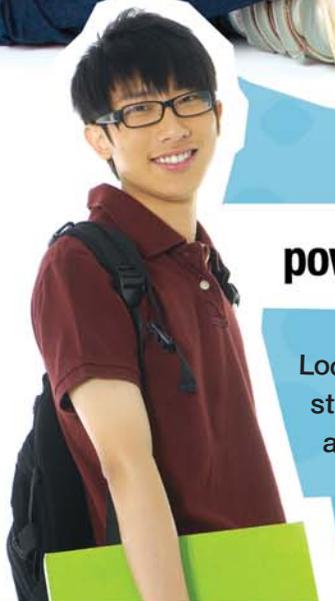
**Still paying overdue fees at the library?** Check out these tips to learn what you can do to save money everyday:

- ★ **Start a savings plan.** By regularly putting away a little bit at a time, you'll always have money saved. If money slips through your fingers, create a spending plan.
- ★ **Shop at second-hand stores.** Check out cool vintage stores or surf eBay for great prices on used items like books, clothes and electronics.
- ★ **Save money on gas.** Walk or ride a bike. It's cheaper and will help you stay healthy.
- ★ **Avoid "lazy" fees.** Ever get charged \$4 for a late DVD rental? Pay your bills on time and return rentals promptly to avoid unnecessary fees.
- ★ **Pack a lunch or cook at home.** Eating out too much can drain your account ... and add extra pounds.
- ★ **Come to the credit union for all your money needs.** We have great ways to save money on the things you need like ATM access, online banking, car loans and more!

## power money tip: use student discounts

Look in your school's newspaper or use the web to search student discounts. Many amusement parks, theatres and books stores offer them, so before you leave the house, be sure to take your student ID with you. It may be worth some extra cash in your pocket.

*Credit Unions = lower loan rates, higher savings rates, better service!*



# MYTHS VS. FACTS

It's time to set the record straight as we put **urban legends** about credit unions and banks to the test.

**CREDIT UNION PROFITS BELONG TO ITS MEMBERS. BANK PROFITS GO TO SHAREHOLDERS.**

Verdict: **TRUE**

Credit union profits are returned back to members in the form of lower loan rates and higher savings earnings. Bank profits go to their shareholders, not their customers.

**BANKS OFFER MORE FINANCIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.**

Verdict: **FALSE**

This may have been true like 50 years ago, but today's credit unions offer everything you need including checking, savings, loans, online banking, credit and debit cards, financial education, insurance and more!

**IT'S EASIER TO ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT WITH A BANK.**

Verdict: **FALSE**

With thousands of ATM locations across the nation, debit cards accepted nearly everywhere, and 24 hour online banking, handling your accounts with a credit union has never been easier.

**CREDIT UNION MEMBERS OWN THE CREDIT UNION.**

Verdict: **TRUE**

When you open a credit union account, you become a co-owner. Each member has one vote in electing board members and can run for election to the board or committees.

*So there you have it. Credit unions are the best bet for handling all your money needs ... and that's a fact!*



## DEBIT CARD FACTS IN SIXTY SECONDS

(MAYBE LESS IF YOU'RE A FAST READER)



A debit card lets you use your checking account without writing a check. Instead, you simply "swipe" your debit card anywhere you see the card's logo and the purchase amount is deducted directly from your checking account. You can also use a debit card to withdraw money at ATMs.

Many people get confused between a debit card and a credit card. They're both the same size and have credit card logos, but that's where the similarity ends. A debit card is tied directly to your checking account and you can only spend the amount of money you have in your account.

When you use a credit card, you are actually borrowing money. You typically have a "grace period" to pay the money back. If you don't pay in full at the end of this period, you are charged interest.

**AND THAT'S IT ... EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DEBIT CARDS ... IN JUST 60 SECONDS.**

# TDECU

**Your Credit Union**

800.839.1154  
[www.TDECU.org](http://www.TDECU.org)

To find out more about the Elements of Money - visit **TDECU.org** and click on Deposit Accounts.