

**ECONOMICS
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS
DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009**

I. Shopping for a Bank

As you will read below, the State of New York Banking Department recommends that you investigate at least three banks before you decide on one. Your job, for this homework, is to visit *one* bank and answer the questions in the box for one of their banking account options.

II. Background Information and Questions for the Bank

A bank is a business. Banks sell financial services and are safe places to keep your money and grow your wealth. Most people usually shop around before they purchase clothes, furniture, cameras, hairstyling, or other goods and services. An important rule is that people should shop around for a bank and the banking services that best meet their needs.

The State of New York Banking Department recommends that consumers consider or “shop around” at a minimum of three banks before selecting one. It has developed the following list as a guideline for people shopping for a bank.

Guidelines
Name/location of bank _____
Is this bank close to my home or my work? _____
Does this bank operate during hours that are convenient for me, and/or is the bank’s ATM network convenient? _____
Do any of the employees speak my language? _____
Does this account offer the services that I need and want? _____
Does this account pay interest ? At what rate ? _____
What fees are associated with this account? _____
What does the bank charge for overdraft protection? _____
What type of identification will I need to open this account? _____
What is the monthly service charge? _____
Do I have to maintain a certain balance to avoid paying fees? Can I afford to maintain that balance? _____
Is this account protected by FDIC insurance? Yes ___ No ___

II. Questions for You – Answer these questions below.

1. What other question would you ask before you select a bank?

2. What are three reasons for high school students to bank? Be ready to discuss your reasons in class.