# **Classroom City**

A Simulation of local government and economics in a classroom mini-city

By Rod Stark



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# Welcome to Classroom City!

Students design, run, and sustain a classroom mini-city while striving to accumulate money and assets in this simulation dealing with local government and economics. "Residents" plan the city's geographical and political structure, elect officials, appoint individuals to city positions—such as bank president, police chief, and postmaster—and learn to manage money while buying and selling property in order to replicate the governmental workings of a modern city. Fate cards introduce unexpected, yet commonplace, events, questions, and activities that can be rewarding monetarily or disappointing—with a loss of money due to bad planning or just plain bad luck—just like real life!



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#### Purpose

A person once reflected that youth as adolescents spend much of their waking time role playing, continually trying different ways of thinking and behaving. From this behavior, children quickly learn which actions work in the real world as they understand it, gaining real-world experience through this role-playing. When they play a role, they can try new ideas without actually committing to them. This allows adolescents to mimic adult behavior without actually changing themselves, to play a temporary role only if it is not real. However, the longer the role is played, the more it is absorbed as it is integrated into the child's own behavior. *Classroom City* is an immersion into the day-to-day economy of a small city. Here the preadolescent or emerging adolescent resident can experience success and heartache based upon decisions he or she makes during the course of the day.

This simulation is designed to help students learn and experience the following:

#### Knowledge

- cash economy, optionally dealing with checks, credit cards, or paying with a mobile phone app
- Robert's Rules of Order
- · city government operation
- bank operation (loans and interest)
- insurance operation (medical, car, and personal property)
- monetary obligations
- profit and loss
- optional computer spreadsheet experience with Excel banking ledger

#### **Attitudes**

- enjoyment of and empathy for people of different social status
- appreciation of the dynamics of group involvement and group decision making in the government

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#### **Purpose**

#### Skills

- use of a checking account
- use of a credit card or mobile phone app
- operation of a business or profession
- handling of emergencies, both major and minor
- effecting change in a nonviolent manner
- use of the English language correctly, both orally and in written form
- becoming productive and cooperative members of a group
- development of imagination in the creation of the project
- · enjoyment of the process of learning
- reinforcement of Common Core subjects of math, science, history, economics, and language

**Handout** 

## **Banking Ledger Sample**

The sample student ledger was created with fictitious student information to demonstrate the various calculations made by the Excel spreadsheet.

	=	Classroom City F	City	Pers	sona	T & 1	susin	.883	Personal & Business Account Ledger Maintained by CC Banker	unt I	Sedg	erA	<i><b>lain</b></i>	tain	ed b	N CC	Ban	ker		
Acct #	± 25	Brown, Charlie Charlie's City Games	e mes	Per	sonal and	d Busine	Personal and Business Income	96		d	lways er	P iter thes	Personal and Business Expenses se numbers with a minus (-) in fro	and Busi rs with a	ness Ex minus (	Personal and Business Expenses Always enter these numbers with a minus (-) in front of the number	of the m	umber		
Day's Transaction Total	n Sim Day	Explanation	Acct Balance	City Wage minus Welfare	Gov. Position Salary	Business Income Maj I & Min	Bank Loan Income	Misc. F Income Cash, Civil	Fate Cards Can be Plus or Minus	Home & H Business I Land Rent I	Heath, Car and Ci Property	CC Income 3	Product & P Services : Paid by	Product & F Services Paid by	Product & Services E Paid by	Bank Loan (Payments	Civil Suits & Fines	Home & E Business Utilities	Business Supplies	Pay to minority owners
	Opening		69.	37	65		100			45	lО					40		7		
	Column Totals	See how much you earn or spend in each category	. \$	185	325	4,009	100	3,060	4,014	135	15	425	204	947	899	120	277	21	244	680
	Day 5	First cash payday with bonus	\$ 100																	
\$ 102	Day 10	Cash Payday (City wage taxed)	\$ 202	37	99															
69.	Day 11		\$ 202																	
5	Day 12		\$ 202							Day	CIL	700000	Jane J.	Total I	Lange	Dree Meconson Cata Damming and Sof I'm	To come	I to D	700	
\$ 100	Day 13		\$ 302				100					20.795					7 22 27 27	2000		
\$ 150	Day 14		\$ 452					150												
\$ 102	Day 15	Payday (City wage taxed) Checking Acct Statements Today	\$ 554	37	99				-	r	r	r	t	ı					ľ	7
\$ 73	Day 16	Opens for oday!	\$ 627			11			-2				23						44	
\$ 137	Day 17		\$ 764			23		10	40				10	44			10			
\$ 107	Day 18		\$ 871			18			20				21	18						
\$ 138	Day 19		\$ 1,009			24		100	-25					4					25	
\$ 317	Day 20		\$ 1,326			35			-20	45	22		20	100		40	25	7		30
\$ 543	Day 21	Payday (City wage taxed) Checking Acct Statements Today	\$ 1,869	37	65	56			220					125			40			
\$ (230)	Day 22		\$ 1,639			45			-200						200				25	
\$ 444	Day 23		\$ 2,083			24			300						120					
\$ 447	Day 24		\$ 2,530			99			-20					93	88		200		20	
\$ 797	Day 25		\$ 3,327			20		300	-150	45	2			400		40		7		100
\$ 1,102	Day 26	Payday (City wage taxed) Checking Acct Statements Today	\$ 4,429	37	65	250			200						250					
\$ 2,677	Day 27		\$ 7,106			367		200	1,000						10		200		100	
\$ (402)	Day 28		\$ 6,704			443			006-					22						
\$ 4,053	Day 29		\$ 10,757			800		1,000	1,555				100	86						200
\$ 3,380	Day 30		\$ 14,137			1,234			1,999	45	C)					40		7		20
\$ 1,890	Day 31	Payday (City wage taxed) Checking Acct Statements Today	\$ 16,027	37	65	563		800				425								
	Day 32	Your NET WORTH IS:	\$ 16,027																	

Handout

# Mobile ePay Phone App

#### Classroom City Mobile ePay App

Merchant Tokens
Go Here—Given to
Merchant as
Payment

Customer Tokens Go Here—Kept by the Customer as Receipt

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## **City Code**

- 1. **Speeding:** Running in the city at any time is forbidden.
- 2. **Vandalism:** Taking of other residents' property without permission is forbidden.
- 3. **Trespassing:** Entering other residents' houses or businesses without permission is forbidden.
- 4. **Disrespect for others:** By their actions, words, and deeds, residents should, at all times, show respect for other residents in the city.
- 5. **Littering:** Residents' homes and businesses shall remain free of litter and trash at all times.
- 6. **Excessive noise:** Noise loud enough to disturb others and the peace of the community shall not be tolerated.
- 7. **Sanitation violation:** No more than one day's amount of trash may be stored in a resident's home or business.
- 8. **Health hazard:** Any article that is or could be a health hazard to residents of the city is not allowed.
- 9. **Fire hazard:** Any article that is or could be a fire hazard to residents of the city is not allowed.
- 10. **Electrical hazard:** Any article that is not correctly connected to or authorized by the electrical power company or any article that is or could be an electrical hazard to the residents of the city is not allowed.
- 11. **Safety hazard:** Any article that is or could be deemed a safety hazard to the residents of the city is not allowed.
- 12. **Fire drill violation:** Any residents not exiting the city in a timely manner as determined by the fire marshal shall be issued a ticket for fire-drill violation.

**Note:** Other codes of conduct may be established by the city council as needed. When this happens, the changes will be added to this code. A copy of this City Code is to be placed in every resident's home along with the City Council Guide to Fines.

