



Maryland State InvestWrite Winner - High School

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As someone who has only heard about the stock market from my dad, I had no idea what to expect going into the Stock Market Game. I then partnered up with three other girls in my class to create a team. We were all very unsure about what to do and how to invest in good stocks to make money, and overall, how to win. However, as we have progressed through the year, we have learned how to check the P/E and PEG ratio, read analyst reports, and have gotten great guidance from our teacher and families.

My team's Stock Market Game portfolio is diversified and conservative. In the Stock Market Game, my team invested in a variety of stocks. We invested in several retail stores, electric, technological, and oil companies. We chose these companies based on personal feelings of each company or industry, news on business decisions and earnings of companies, and opinions from financial analysts or stock market reporters.

My team invested in several technologically based stocks. For example, we invested in, Microsoft, Trump Media & Technology Group Corporation or DJT, Spotify, and Nvidia. Microsoft is an extremely popular software producer, which has been valuable to my team this semester. We initially invested in the company due to our knowledge of the company because of our school systems' reliance on the company for our technological uses. This company has earned us minimal financial gains since our first investment. Additionally, DJT was a stock we have shorted and since bought back. DJT is Donald Trump's media company, Truth Social. The election this year played a significant role in the fluctuation of stocks, and we were on top of the news that coincided with this stock. When there was controversy on the Trump-Vance

campaign, we shorted the stock. When Trump won the election, we bought the stock, and it has done well for us ever since. Spotify is a worldwide, and exceedingly popular music streaming platform. We bought this company in October, when the price was around \$375. The stock price has increased by over \$200 since we invested and has been one of our best performing stocks this game. Finally, Nvidia was the first stock my team invested in back in October. Nvidia is a global provider of computer, graphics, and networking solutions. We bought this stock because we saw it on Yahoo Finance as a popular buy. After doing some research, we consecutively decided to invest in this as our first stock. This stock has since been a stable income for us.

My team invested in some energy stocks. Schlumberger, and Enphase Energy. Schlumberger is a technology company which specializes in oil and gas energy production. My team invested in this company after seeing an article about it on Yahoo Finance. Unfortunately, this company has not gained much for our team. Our other energy stock that we invested in was Enphase Energy. Enphase is a solar power energy-based company. This stock was bought later into the Stock Market Game and was most likely invested in too late to gain any earnings.

My team invested in many consumers discretionary stocks. These stocks include Disney, Amazon, Alibaba, DoorDash, Roku, Lululemon, and Target. Disney is an extremely famous family entertainment company which produces media entertainment of all kinds and has several amusement parks across the world. We invested in this stock due to its sentimental value as our group all has fond memories of visiting the parks or watching the media Disney has produced. We also invested in this stock because of its steady increase, which we were notified of, so we acted on it. Amazon and Ali Baba are both large e-commerce companies which connect retailers to a customer through an online website. However, Amazon is based in the United States, whereas Ali Baba is based in China. These stocks have provided us with quite different outcomes from our investments. Amazon has earned us money, while Ali Baba has cost us money. This could be a result of the lack of popularity of Ali Baba compared to Amazon. DoorDash is a newly popular company in the United States which is based around delivering

food from your favorite restaurants in your area, to your location. This company has gained great popularity in the past few years, so we decided to invest in it. Roku is a newly popular streaming service which allows users to stream from their favorite networks such as YouTube, Netflix, Disney + and more. As streaming has become more popular instead of broadcast television, Roku has taken off. Lululemon is a widely popular athletic clothing company that has become widely popular in the last 10 years. We invested in this stock because of our team's consecutive liking of the brand. Target is a general merchandise retailer that sells groceries, clothing, technology, accessories, toys, cosmetics and more. Everyone on my team enjoys going to Target to shop, and after it was mentioned one day in class, we decided to invest in the company. This company did not do very well for us, but because of our widespread investments in other companies, we were not concerned about the risk.

My team invested in one financial stock, Berkshire Hathaway. After hearing about Warren Buffet, and his financial success, as well as his company, Berkshire Hathaway, we decided to invest in it. Berkshire Hathaway is a holding company that owns a range of private businesses. This investment has not been our biggest success in the Stock Market Game, however it has made us money, and added diversity to our investments.

By having a diverse stock portfolio, my team and I were able to minimize risk in our investing. Although the diversity in stocks is better for longer term investments, my team is currently 15th in the region, and I am proud of how we have done with our investing.