



2024 First Place National Winning Essay Elementary School

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During my classroom experience in the Stock Market Game, I learned a lot. Honestly, at first the Stock Market Game felt frustrating. For me, the first day contained a lot of information and this made it overwhelming. But, after I learned more about stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, it became interesting and challenging. I wanted to come every week. We work in groups. Being in groups allowed me to hear ideas, gain perspective, and learn from others. Every week, I look forward to learning something new. There are several ideas that impacted my decision in developing my stock market portfolio. One is the reputation of the company and how much I use it. For example, I invested in Disney because it is a popular entertainment company and owns services like Hulu, ESPN, and Marvel that make a lot of money.

My team's portfolio consisted of 78.79% in cash, 18.66% in stocks, 1.42% in mutual funds, and 1.14% in bonds. There was a lot in currency because cash has liquidity, stability, and can serve as emergency reserves. But having a large cash reserve can be bad because inflation can shrink the value of the savings. Stocks can be mixed. The cons are that they are really unpredictable. The pros of having stocks are that if the market conditions are good and company performance is positive, you can gain significant value from owning a stock over time. This approach includes stock values and dividend payments. My team predicted after the super bowl many people would listen to Taylor Swift. So, we bought Spotify. Mutual funds are good because it's a quick way to diversify your portfolio and has a balanced approach to stock investment. It is bad because you have a risk of losing an investment. Bonds are bad because sometimes there is a low rate of income. But it can be good because it's a steady income stream and can protect against stock losses.

My portfolio performed well because I have a mix of food, entertainment, and drinks. I have Costco because people buy groceries every day. I have Disney, Netflix, and Spotify because people watch movies and listen to music. I purchased Pepsi because it is a beverage company and has a good market share of popular snack food.

By 2030, my community goal is to stop the use of fossil fuels. This is important because fossil fuels are non-renewable resources that can cause pollution. With the cash in my portfolio I should purchase socially responsible companies that don't use fossil fuels.

With a \$25,000 portfolio invested for the long term, 2030, I would have 50% in stocks, cash would be 10%, 30% in bonds, and 10% in mutual funds based on what I learned in the Stock Market Game. One investment from my current portfolio that helps my goal is Costco. I have Costco because people buy groceries almost every single day. Costco sells fruits and vegetables that are aided by natural resources like the sun, which is renewable, and water.

My diversified portfolio is aimed at growth and has enough cash reserves. The mixture of bonds and mutual funds provide stability. I have grocery stocks and entertainment stocks. I have grocery stocks because they are needed. Entertainment stocks contain material that promote other brands through marketing. I would also have green bonds that can help by funding renewable energy projects that invest in solar, wind, and environmentally friendly material. Mutual funds help by using or adopting sustainable and socially responsible practices.

I really learned from my stock market club. I enjoyed learning about the economy and seeing how I can make money and help the environment too. I am one step closer to lessening climate change by investing in the environment. This class helped me to be a good citizen and benefited me by giving me tools to increase my wealth.