

**Independent Living Program Activity Card**

**Category: WORK LIFE & CAREER PLAN**

**Activity: Filing your Taxes**

Description:

**The objective of this assignment is to:** Help you to understand the importance of filing taxes, and help you find some options for how to file them for low or no cost.

**How do I get credit for this assignment?**

- Read through all of the information provided
- Research some of the options for programs that can help you file.
- Answer the questions provided.
- Email the completed work along with this cover sheet to: Michelle Estrada at [mestrada@orangewoodfoundation.org](mailto:mestrada@orangewoodfoundation.org)

**You may earn \$10.00 ILP dollars for completing this assignment.**

Total Dollars Earned:

<p><b>\$</b></p>
<p>(ILP Use Only)</p>

Notes:	Goal:
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Signature	Date of Birth
Print Name (Youth)	Group Home (If Applicable)

<b>Receipt</b>
(ILP Use Only)

## GET HELP WITH YOUR TAXES

### Filing taxes – Explained with a meme



#### Some Key Points:

- Filing taxes is important.
- It can be really complicated.
- If you don't know what you are doing, you could end up owing more than you should, or lose out on money you deserve.
- If you don't file, or file incorrectly, you can end up owing additional fees, or in some *very extreme* cases, facing jail time.

**Long story short, there's no need to stress, but it's a good idea to get some help with your taxes.**

Government: You owe us money. It's called taxes.

Me: How much do I owe?

Gov't: You have to figure that out.

Me: I just pay what I want?

Gov't: Oh, no we know exactly how much you owe. But you have to guess that number too.

Me: What if I get it wrong?

Gov't: You go to prison

### Why file your taxes anyway?

Filing taxes is important. Sure, if you don't file you could end up owing a lot of money to the IRS, or worse... but one of the most important reasons to file taxes is to see if you get a refund! Most people are entitled to a refund. It basically means that you overpaid in taxes and the government owes you money.... Don't give the government your hard earned money. File your taxes to make sure you get what you deserve.

### Where can I go to get help filing my taxes??

For most people who are working, but not investing, or inheriting money, your taxes can be completed for free or for a very low fee.

Below is a list of some resources for **free or low cost programs** you can reach out to complete your taxes.

- <https://ocfreetaxprep.com/>
- <https://www.getyourrefund.org/en>
- <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>
- <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers>
- <https://www.unitedwayoc.org/how-we-are-doing-more/income/free-tax-preparation/>
- Call 211 or go to [www.211.org](http://www.211.org)

If you have a lot of deductions, have your own business, or have a lot of investments, **you may need to hire someone and pay them to help you.** One somewhat affordable options is Turbo Tax. Be warned it may cost you over \$100 to file.

- TurboTax.com – Very popular. Even though it says it's "Free," there are usually fees you need to pay.

## **How do I get credit for this assignment?**

Using your experiences with taxes so far, please answer the following questions

### **ANSWER THIS FIRST:**

- Did you file your taxes last year?

\_\_\_\_\_

*Your answer to this question will decide which of the following questions to answer*

### **IF YOU ANSWERED YES, ANSWER THESE:**

- Where did you go, or who did you go to, to file your taxes?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Would you go with the same option next year? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Would you recommend them to a friend?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Did you get a refund? Or owe?

\_\_\_\_\_

### **IF YOU ANSWERED NO, ANSWER THESE:**

- Why didn't you?

\_\_\_\_\_

- What can you do now to get prepared for next year's tax season?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Based on what you read, where do you think you might go to get your taxes done next time?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Why do you think it's important to file your taxes?

\_\_\_\_\_