

Podcast Questions - An honest look at the personal finance crisis

Vocabulary you can preview

baby boomers	isolating	food stamps	broke
retirement	nest egg	equity	credit
maintain	insolvency	rock bottom	pensions

Comprehension questions

1. According to the opening of the podcast, what is humiliating and isolating?

Financial trouble is humiliating and isolating.

2. What are some examples that Elizabeth White gives that demonstrate her personal finance crisis?

That her electricity was cut off, she meets the eligibility requirements for food stamps, and that she buys the small size of detergent. *Other answers are possible.*

3. What do her friends wonder?

They wonder how someone so well-educated could be struggling financially.

4. Where does she feel that her online work applications go?

She feels that they go into a black hole, meaning that no one ever really looks at them.

5. What type of people catch her eye now?

She pays attention to homeless women now.

6. How much money (according to experts) should we set aside to maintain our standard of living?

15-20%

7. What is the “three-legged retirement income stool?”

It’s a metaphor for savings, pension, and social security.

8. What does Elizabeth White want people to do to help combat this crisis?

She wants people to share their stories and help one another think of ways to change the world to help put a stop to this personal finance crisis.

Discussion questions

1. How is retirement handled where you live?
2. Do you think retirement is easier or more difficult than it was for previous generations? Why?
3. Whose job is it to improve the financial situation for older people? Why?

4. Do you think retirement is going to become easier or more difficult in the future? Why?
5. Are there ways in which people can help one another save money, get jobs, or overcome personal financial challenges? If yes, what are they? If not, why not?
6. Elizabeth White mentions her opinion on online job applications. What do you think about online job applications? Why?
7. In what ways do you try to save money?
8. Are there things worth splurging on in life? Why or why not?