

Retirement Account Comparison Worksheet

Student Instructions: Research each type of retirement account and complete the comparison chart. After analyzing the accounts, answer the reflection questions and rank the accounts based on your personal situation.

Part 1: Account Comparison Chart

Account Type	Tax Benefits	Contribution Limits (2023)	Withdrawal Rules	Ideal For	Personal Notes
401(k)/403(b)					
Traditional IRA					
Roth IRA					
Health Savings Account (HSA)					
Taxable Investment Account					

Part 2: Key Comparison Points

Complete the comparison table below by researching specific features of each account type.

Feature	401(k)/403(b)	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA	HSA	Taxable Acc
Tax on Contributions					
Tax on Growth					
Tax on Withdrawals					
Early Withdrawal Penalty					
Required Minimum Distributions					

Employer Match Available				
Income Limits to Contribute				
Investment Options				

Part 3: Account Ranking and Reflection

Personal Account Ranking

Based on your research and personal circumstances, rank these account types in order of priority for your retirement planning (1 = highest priority).

Rank	Account Type	Rationale for Ranking
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Reflection Questions

1. How does your current or expected tax bracket affect which accounts might be most beneficial for

2. What factors beyond tax treatment influenced your account rankings?

3. How might your account preferences change as you progress through different life stages?

4. If you had to choose just one account type to start with, which would it be and why?

Note: This worksheet is for educational purposes only and does not constitute financial advice. For specific financial guidance consult with a qualified financial professional.

PFL Academy - Chapter 6.1: Planning for Retirement