There’s not really a right or wrong way to set a goal — but some methods are more effective than others. And when it comes to your money goals, the more planning you can do, the better.

That’s why we’re fans of the SMART goal-setting method. SMART goals are:

**SPECIFIC:** What exactly do you want to achieve?

**MEASURABLE:** What mini-goals can you use to measure progress towards your larger goal?

**ATTAINABLE:** Is this goal actually possible?

**REALISTIC:** Does your timeline and method for achieving this goal make sense in your life right now?

**TIME–BASED:** When will you achieve this goal?

So, what’s the SMART goal you want to achieve in 2020?

**SPECIFIC:** ____________________________________________
Example: “I will pay off my student loan debt.”

**MEASURABLE:** ____________________________________________
Example: “I will pay this off in increments of $500 a month, increasing my payments as I can afford to.”

**ATTAINABLE:** ____________________________________________
Example: “By making regular payments rather than waiting on one lump sum, I will be able to pay off my entire student debt.”

**REALISTIC:** ____________________________________________
Example: “If I give myself enough wiggle room in my budget to make sure I can still have a life while paying off debt.”

**TIME–BASED:** ____________________________________________
Example: “I will pay off my entire debt in two years.”

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