» TWO SIDES OF THE ISSUE

It looks like plastic fantastic at first glance – a credit card with no income requirement and a $500 limit – yet it has sparked divisive views from parents and students. Detractors claim the Citi Clear Card, launched this week, could get students spending like drunken sailors and spiralling into debt. But others argue that the card offers convenience for customers and has enough checks and balances built in to avoid the debt trap. Grace Ng sets out to see what side of the ledger Singaporeans sit on the card issue by polling 40 kids aged 17 to 24 and parents whose children fall into that age range.

STUDENTS:

Would you go for the $500 credit card?

YES 37.5%

- Can buy big-ticket items
- Privileges/ discounts

NO 62.5%

- Have debit/ supplementary credit cards
- Want to spend within means

PARENTS:

Would you let your kids have the $500 credit card?

YES 20%

- I trust my kids to be responsible
- Early training in credit matters
- $500 is a small sum
- Handy for travelling

NO 80%

- Kid may default and earn bad credit
- Too young to handle credit cards

ST GRAPHICS: MIKE M DIZON PHOTO: CITIBANK