oh, and check your local library for "how to make your own PC guides", that's where I first learnt stuff.

Yeah, lots of RAM, if you can't get lots instantly, get a motherboard that can take lots (plenty of RAM slots, four is good), and add to it when you can afford it.

In this case of Nvidea vs. ATI, Nvidea does win, simply because the ATI card is way older. (I could make my old and unused crappy Nvidea geforce Mx100 lose to my ATI X1650, but there's no contest... the X1650 was made this millenium... and the Mx100 can only do AGP 4X... etc)