

Section 4—Consumer Issues and Education

Title of Lesson/Subject: *Protecting Your Identity--and Helping Others Protect Theirs*

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Contact Information

E-mail address:

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Time Allotment: 2 –3 days for research, then an additional day to create the presentation

Grade Level: Middle School-High School

National Standards:

- **National Council of Teachers of English and International Reading Association Standards for English Language Arts**
 - 7. Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.
 - 8. Students use a variety of technological and informational resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.
 - 12. Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information).
- **Social Sciences:**
 - NSS-EC.9-12.2
 - NSS-EC.9-12.5
 - NSS-EC.9-12.13

ND Standards Competencies:

- Standard 3: Economic Systems
Understand the importance of management of personal finances
- Standard 3: Mathematics
Collect and organize data, select and use an appropriate display
- Standard 3: Informative Writing
6.3.1 Produce informative writing e.g., researched-based reports, instructions

Key Economic Concepts:

- Identity theft
- Federal Trade Commission
- Social Security number

Brief Description:

The fastest growing crime in recent years has been identity theft. Of course no one steals YOU, but, according to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, Social Security number, credit card number or other identifying information, without your permission to commit

fraud or other crimes. Although this has been occurring for many years, today's use of the Internet and electronic databases has made this an even greater problem. Do your readers understand this problem and how they can avoid being victims? Are there ways your school systems use personal information that could lead to identity theft?

Learner Objectives:

- Students will know what identity theft is.
- Students can explain ways to prevent identity theft.
- Students will create a paper, power point, or presentation.

Introduction:**Materials Needed:**

- Research materials: time allotted for library/computer access

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed:**Lesson Plan Outline (Procedure):**

1. First introduce what identity theft is and also what their social security number is. Sixth graders will probably need a bit of explanation as to what a social security number is and why it is important. Use "Round Robin" to discuss its value.
2. Research identity theft – how it occurs, how to avoid it and what to do when someone thinks it has happened to him or her.
3. Find out what the state or federal government has in place to protect citizens.
4. Report the situation to your readers, including what could happen to them.
5. If possible, find someone in your community who has been the victim of identity fraud. Interview him or her to get the story and use this as a sidebar to go along with the main story.
6. Create a check list readers can use to be sure they are not easy victims. Perhaps also create a check list of what to do if you think you have been a victim.
7. Finally take all research facts and compile into a paper, short presentation, or a power point.

Resources:

Lesson Plan Source: For an overview of the problem, including statistics about the number of U.S. adults who have had this problem in the past five years, read "FTC releasing detailed report on identity theft," by Reuters in USA Today Sept. 3, 2003. <http://newsohio.kent.edu/lessonplans/2004/weektwo/Identityj101603.htm>

Activities:**Application/Assignment:**

Evaluation Plan:

Their paper, presentation, or power point demonstrates a clear understanding of what identity theft is and how devastating the consequences of it can be. It also emphasizes the importance of taking daily precaution to prevent it.