



LESSON PLAN

Protecting Yourself Online

GRADES

7 to 12

TIME

45 minutes



OVERVIEW

In a connected world, keeping your personal information safe is essential. This lesson will familiarize students with common types of scams they may encounter online, as well as common mistakes people make in protecting their personal data.

GOALS

- Help students to spot common online scams and protect sensitive personal information
- Equip students to decide what not to share on social media

OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate the importance of keeping various forms of personal information secure
- Break down different types of online scams and common scam tactics
- Identify mistakes in social media posts that could compromise data security
- Spot the warning signs of various scams in a suspicious email

ASSESSMENT

Activities A and B can be used to gauge student understanding. An optional quiz has been provided with this lesson plan (the quiz is not factored into the lesson's 45-minute runtime).

Did you know? This lesson plan explores concepts from Standard 6 (Protecting & Insuring) from the Council for Economic Education's National Standards for Financial Literacy.

MATERIALS

- VIDEO 03**—*Foiling Identity Theft*
- VIDEO 31**—*How to Spot Scams*
- HANDOUT 03**—*Foiling Identity Theft*
- HANDOUT 31**—*How to Spot Scams*
- PRESENTATION 03**—*Foiling Identity Theft*
- ACTIVITY A**—*Spot the Social Media Mistakes and Answer Key*
- ACTIVITY B**—*The Warning Signs of Scam Email and Answer Key*
- QUIZ**—*Protecting Yourself Online and Answer Key*

PREPARATION

- Gather digital materials (videos and presentation)
- Print **HANDOUT 03** and **HANDOUT 31** for each student
- (Optional) Print **QUIZ** (Protecting Yourself Online) for each student
- Print and cut out cards for **ACTIVITY A**
- Prepare **ACTIVITY B** by printing out physical copies for students and preparing a copy for in-class display



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TIME LINE

- 5 minutes** Introduce topic and show **VIDEO 03** (*Foiling Identity Theft*)
- 10 minutes** Go over **PRESENTATION 03**
- 10 minutes** Divide students into small groups and distribute **ACTIVITY A**; go over the correct answers together as a class
- 5 minutes** Show **VIDEO 31** (*How to Spot Scams*)
- 10 minutes** Divide students into small groups and distribute **ACTIVITY B**; go over correct answers together as a class
- 5 minutes** Wrap up and distribute **HANDOUT 03** and **HANDOUT 31**
- (Optional)** Assessment: **QUIZ** (*Protecting Yourself Online*)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Introduce the topic: “Protecting yourself online is an extremely important part of your personal security, especially when it comes to finances.” Ask the class:
 - What are some methods you use to protect yourself online?
- Show **VIDEO 03**
- Go over **PRESENTATION 03**
- Distribute **ACTIVITY A**
 - Have students divide into small groups
 - Provide each group with a social media postcard, and have them determine what’s wrong with the post
 - Display the cards for the class and go through each social media post, having each group provide their answers; go over all answers with the class and provide any missing answers
- Show **VIDEO 31**

6. Distribute **ACTIVITY B**

- Have students break into small groups and give each group a copy of the provided sample email sheet
- Write scam types on board, or display them for the class
- Allow students time to spot types of scams and mark them on their sheets
- Display the email sheet for the class and go over the answers together

7. Wrap up by sharing the following:

- Your personal data is valuable, and can be bought and sold without you knowing; treat it like any other valued possession and keep it safeguarded
- Remember to stay vigilant for external hazards, and also not give out too much information about yourself

8. Distribute **HANDOUT 03** and **HANDOUT 31** as take-home materials

9. (Optional) Distribute **QUIZ** for individual assessment, or answer the questions together as a class

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