

Consumer Education: Financial Literacy

Lesson 5: Identity Theft

Time of lesson: Approximately 45 minutes

Overview: This lesson covers the basics of identity theft, including how criminals retrieve personal information and how consumers can protect their information from being stolen.

Objectives: Students will learn about identity theft, including how criminals gain access to personal information to steal consumers' identities as well as tips to help prevent becoming a victim of identity theft.

Materials:

- Lesson 5 PowerPoint
- Markers
- Poster Paper

Activities:

1. Identity Theft Scenarios (homework)

Have students select a story about identity theft in the newspaper or online, summarize it, and report on the issues and challenges it presents. They should explain what actions can be taken to avoid identity theft.

2. Preventing Identity Theft (group activity)

Have students develop at least six "rules of the road" to help prevent their identities from being stolen. Be sure they include recommendations to protect personal information and how to be on the lookout for the warning signs their identity has been stolen.

3. Dealing With Identity Theft (homework)

Ask students to pretend their identity has been stolen and create a step-by-step plan for taking action to get their identity back. Have each student describe how they lost their identity and the action steps they would take as a result. Also, they should be prepared to explain how they could have helped prevent the identity theft in the first place.

Standards:

Ohio Department of Education: Financial Literacy Academic Content Standards - Financial Literacy
Consumerism:

Informed purchasing decisions are essential for responsible financial management. Limited protections against some consumer fraud exist in government regulatory agencies and laws. Ultimately, consumers must be informed and vigilant when making purchasing decisions.

Standards Updated: 6/12/2012