

Social Engineering: A Discussion on Awareness

TOPIC: SOCIAL ENGINEERING

GRADES 6-8

LESSON DURATION: 45 MINUTES

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will define social engineering.
- Students will identify basic social engineering tactics and be able to explain prevention.
- Students will answer questions on social engineering.

Materials:

- [Presentation with student questions contained within](#)
- [Optional: SonicWall Phishing Awareness test](#)

Activities:

1. The teacher should explain that today students will learn about social engineering. Ask students for a definition of social engineering. If they do not know, help them develop a definition. (Social=people; engineering=design, build, etc.) ...Social engineering is the use of deception to manipulate individuals into divulging confidential or personal information that may be used for harm. (nickname=hacking humans)
2. Explain that social engineering is one of the biggest cyber threats right now to individuals, workers, and companies.
3. [Present the information on social engineering.](#)
4. Have students answer the questions in the presentation. These can be done with a partner, alone, or as homework.

Enrichment/Assessment:

- The teacher may choose to have students share information on social engineering. If so, [this form](#) can be used for students to be held accountable in sharing this information with at least three other people who are not in the same class. Students need to fill in the script before talking with others.
- Students can complete the Phishing Awareness Test found at <https://www.sonicwall.com/en-us/phishing-iq-test>. Students are required to identify whether emails are legitimate or phishing attempts. After all 10 scenarios have been completed, they receive feedback on their responses.

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- Have students complete a current event project. Students should research and find recent examples of social engineering either a.) in the news or b.) through talking to someone they know who has experienced social engineering. Students could be asked to write a summary or could give a 1-2-minute presentation on what they learned.

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