

Cybersecurity: Why It Matters

A Discussion Regarding Online Safety

TOPIC: ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY, FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF CYBERSECURITY

GRADES: 6-8, 9-12

LESSON DURATION: 45 MINUTES

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION, CREATIVE THINKING

Introduction:

- Oftentimes while discussing cybersecurity, one might be hit with the comment, “Who cares, I have nothing of value anyway...” This discussion-based lesson explains cyber in a common sense analogy that anyone who once longed for a bicycle (or a car, or anything of value) can understand. It would best be used in a class that talks about decision-making, life skills, etc. (i.e. sociology, economics, life skills, digital citizenship, etc.).

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will understand basic cybersecurity principles through the use of a common analogy.
- Students will develop concrete examples of safe online behavior practices through the use of an analogy.

Materials:

- [Teacher notes for the discussion](#)
- [Optional presentation \(for visual impact\)](#)

Activities:

1. This lesson is designed to be discussion based. The teacher has access to all materials and questions on the teacher note sheet.
2. Students should be asked to share ideas, opinions, and experiences throughout the course of the discussion.
3. The teacher can choose to use the visual presentation and modify, as needed.

Enrichment/Follow-up:

1. If this is done as an introductory lesson, the teacher could ask students to summarize or state ways in which they can be more aware of their online behaviors. What areas should they practice more safety? This could be done as an “exit ticket” assessment activity.

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