

Reading about a Young Social Engineer

TOPIC: SOCIAL ENGINEERING

GRADES: 6-8

LESSON DURATION: 45-60 MINUTES

SOFT SKILLS: INDEPENDENT WORK, COMMUNICATION

Introduction:

- This lesson is designed for insertion into English class, though it could be used in any discipline. It is designed as a nonfiction, narrative reading for students.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to define social engineering using a nonfiction narrative example.
- Students will understand the threats posed by social engineers.

Materials:

- [Online reference for social engineering](#)
- [Article for students to read](#)
- [Questions over article](#)
- [Teacher response sheet](#)
- [Optional Video over social engineering basics](#) (Source: CSO Online)

Activities:

1. This activity should be introduced with a review of ethical online behaviors. Some students may be tempted to mock some of the behaviors. If the teacher needs some examples of social engineers who exploited people, the example of Kevin Mitnick could be used. Mitnick started social engineering when he was young due to boredom and curiosity. By the time he was an adult, he would get caught and put in prison for his actions. He now is one of the leading advocates for educating people against the dangers of social engineering so that they do not fall victim.
2. This activity is designed to be self-guided. Students need the article and the worksheet.
3. The teacher may choose to assign as an assessment grade or use the information for an in-class discussion after all students are done with the worksheet.
4. An optional introductory video is included from CSO Online. The video introduces the concept of social engineering and briefly describes prevention measures.
5. All information is included in the materials section above.

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