

An Introduction to Data Breaches

TOPIC: ETHICS

GRADES: 9-12

LESSON DURATION: 45-60 MINUTES

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, CRITICAL THINKING

Introduction:

- Data breaches seem to be more and more common. A company gets breached. Their stock prices fall. And then we forget about the whole thing until the next victim becomes public. The problem is that millions of Americans are victims at least one time; more likely multiple times in their lives and the damage done is very hard to undo. There are few laws in place to punish the perpetrator, help the victim, or prevent the crime in the first place. Writing such laws prove to be very difficult (If the teacher wants to expand on this topic, the FTC typically has jurisdiction over data breaches). This lesson uses a commentary on the Equifax breach to get students thinking about the problems allowing this to happen as well as the impact a breach has on people's lives.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will thoughtfully analysis a commentary and develop opinions on cybersecurity incidents and responses.
- Students will display understanding of what it means to be a victim of a data breach

Materials:

- Article available at <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/09/20/cybersecurity-lessons-from-equifax-data-breach-commentary.html>
- [Worksheet for thought analysis](#). This worksheet can be assigned individually or be completed in small groups.

Activities:

1. The teacher should explain to the class that today they will be looking at data breaches.
2. Students should be asked to read the commentary.
3. Students will then work through the 4 questions on the worksheet. The teacher can choose to use them as a discussion or for homework/grade.
4. The students could follow up with research into more famous data breaches in history. This article from CSO lists several major breaches <https://www.csoonline.com/article/2130877/data-breach/the-biggest-data-breaches-of-the-21st-century.html>

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Follow-up/Enrichment:

1. The teacher may consider a guest speaker in the field of cybersecurity. Local FBI offices would have a special agent who specializes in business cybersecurity. Local groups also exist that would be willing to do outreach.

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