

Pay Attention: Physical Security in a Connected World

TOPIC: FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF CYBERSECURITY, ETHICS

GRADES: 9-12

LESSON DURATION: 1-2 DAYS

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION, CREATIVE THINKING

Introduction:

- One aspect of cybersecurity is the physical security of buildings, businesses, and other places in which devices are present. This activity is designed to get students to pay attention to their surroundings and identify weaknesses in physical settings. Along the way, they will learn that companies require workers to adhere to a variety of different types of policy, procedures, and guidelines.

Learning Outcomes:

- Through the completion of an activity, students will learn basic safety protocols that should be following in order to keep physical spaces secure.
- Students will also learn that most workplaces have protocols and safety standards that must be followed.

Materials:

- [Student worksheet](#)
- [Clean Desk Policy](#)
- An environment to observe

Activities:

1. This activity should be introduced as a discussion of company guidelines. As students begin to think about careers they will be held accountable for their behavior. The teacher should use the Clean Desk policy presentation to introduce students to the different types of policies that they may come in contact with on the job.
2. Once students have completed the Clean Desk activity, hand out the worksheet with the activity contained on it. This activity can be done outside of class as homework or the teacher can assign students to locations throughout the building. *This activity should be done in a course in which students understand ethics and can be trusted to both room hallways unsupervised and look for weaknesses in the school building. Prior approval may be needed for this part or the teacher may decide that this part is not something to be done with his/her students due to maturity, an unsafe environment, or trust issues.*
3. The teacher can give as much or as little guidance as needed. There are notes made on the teacher resource to help guide the activity. Students should be encouraged to think about the problems that could happen. Ethics are important and students should be reminded that

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following through on harmful actions has consequences but sometimes learning how to protect oneself comes about by looking for weaknesses. That is the goal of this activity.

4. Once students have completed the activity, they should be allowed to present their findings in order to discuss and learn from others' observations.

Enrichment/Follow-up:

1. If no staff policy exists, have students develop a school wide Digital Security Policy and present it to staff. For example, most schools have an Acceptable User Agreement but receive no training on a Clean Desk policy or on physical digital safety. Students could work to develop either a tip sheet or a presentation for all staff in the building.

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