**Student Guide: How Do You Safeguard Money from Scammers?**

A Lesson in:

* Consumer Protection
* Identity Theft Awareness
* Assistance for Identity Theft Victims

**Your Thoughts Before Reading:**

1. **What do you know about con-artists? What is their goal?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **It’s the kind of scam that makes your skin crawl.** The radio reports a sweet, little 83 year old lady paid for a new roof, only to find the workers took the money and ran. The Prince of Insert Foreign Country Here has a son that needs medical attention, and your ability to wire him money is the difference between life and death.

*Write three sentences to describe the most convincing “scam” that nearly ensnared you- or a family member- in a trap.*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **Now and later.**  What kind of consequences do you think would have happened if that most convincing scam actually turned into reality? *How would it have affected the victim of fraud? Would there have been any long term or short term effects? What about the impact on friends or family?*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Fraud Victim** | | **Family and Friends** |
| **Short Term (1 year) Consequences** | **Long Term (More than 1 year) Consequences** |  |
|  |  |

1. **Play the player, hustle the hustler, sweet-talk the swindler, dupe the double-crosser….** We have all heard these timeless tales whereby an innocent do-gooder gets sucked in and succumbs to the financial death of a money predator. Well, how about trying to be just an innocent citizen and pay your electric bill on time?

*How could this be a potential scam or trap?* Deceitfully, greedy individuals who would rather have your money than let you pay the electric bill, have found a way. *What do you think?*

|  |
| --- |
| **Possible ways a financial scammer may take your money for the electric bill:** |
|  |

**During the Reading with Newspaper in Education:**

1. **Read with purpose.** Read the article attached and complete the following.

|  |
| --- |
| **Identify and explain “red flags” from the article that businesses and individuals should be aware of that may point to a potential scam.** (A “red flag” is a metaphor, a warning sign that something is wrong.) |
|  |

**After the Reading:**

1. **List it!** *Make a list with a class partner providing examples for the types of loss a victim of financial fraud experiences.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Loss** | | |
| **Assets** | **Wealth** | **Future Opportunities** |
|  |  |  |

1. **As a class, discuss the types of personal information that you should keep private.** Write some notes on what you learn from your class discussion.

|  |
| --- |
| *Personal information I should keep private:* |

1. **Reflect on your learning for this lesson.** Come up with “Three Safe Rules” to ensure that you can protect, reduce or insure against the risk of loss due to identity theft.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. **Explore the internet.** Write down some website locations who help consumers find information about purchasing goods and services as well as consumer protection.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Organization** | **Website Address** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. **Share your knowledge.** *Create a colorful flyer to educate consumers on how to safeguard their money from scammers.*

**Extension:** Create a blog post that teaches on the protection of identity fraud.