



LifeSmarts U Apartment Safety Lesson Plan Apartment Safety & Security 101

Lesson Description:

Leaving home and choosing a first apartment is exciting. This lesson challenges the student to create and use a safety and security checklist when evaluating potential apartments.

This lesson complements the LifeSmarts ConsumerMan Video titled “House Fires”

Lesson Objectives:

- Construct an audit to compare safety and security features at potential apartments.
- Create an awareness of apartment safety and security for first time renters.

Time:

2 class periods

Background:

Moving away from home and into an apartment is exciting and a big step to becoming a responsible adult. This independence calls for applying real-life knowledge about safety and security to choosing a safe, secure first apartment. Before signing a rental agreement, it is important to check for safety and security in the surrounding area, the apartment building, and the apartment itself.

Materials:

- *Fire Safety Vocabulary*
- Worksheet Key: *Fire Safety Vocabulary*
- Videocast: *House Fires*
- PowerPoint: *Apartment Safety & Security 101*
- Activity: Apartment Safety—*Checking It Out*
- Activity Key: Apartment Safety—*Checking it Out*

Procedures

Day 1:

1. Distribute Worksheet: *Fire Safety Vocabulary*.
2. Assign students to define only the vocabulary they are confident they understand.
3. View the Videocast: *House Fires*
4. Clarify and define vocabulary with the large group.

Day 2:

1. Divide students into small groups and distribute activity, *Checking It Out*.
2. Ask each group to fill in the empty lines with safety and security tips.
3. Select a spokesperson from each small group to share their ideas with the large group.
4. Discuss the safety and security precautions familiar to students and through discussion expand their knowledge of apartment safety and security issues.



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Discussion Questions

1. In conversation with friends, Cameron said, "I can't wait to have my own place, so I can do whatever I want." Discuss how this statement is both true and false when renting an apartment.
2. Landlord Tenant Law is written to protect both the property owner and the tenant. What protections do both parties need?
3. What common problems do first time renters have? How might they be avoided?
4. What fire safety precautions do you have in place at home; what precautions should be added?
5. What social media mistakes do teenagers make that threaten their security?

Extension and Differentiated Instruction Tips

1. Distribute the worksheet, *Fire Safety Vocabulary* and define content vocabulary with students at the beginning of the lesson.
2. Assign small groups of students to complete only one section of *Checking It Out*.
3. After students complete *Checking It Out* and engage in class discussion, assign them to take the student activity home to discuss. Ask them to add any additional safety and security tips. Call for additions the following day and discuss the differences in perspectives of adults who have had the rental experience and teenagers who are preparing for their independence.
4. Plan a panel discussion. Invite recent graduates who live independently to discuss their experience. Use the discussion questions to start the conversation.
5. Assign students to discuss fire safety with their families and take any necessary additional fire safety precautions.

