



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

LifeSmarts Lesson: Retirement Planning

Lesson Description: Students will learn about retirement planning and gain strategies to set themselves up for financial security in retirement.

Lesson Objectives:

- Explore retirement planning as a part of overall financial health.
- Learn about Social Security and its role in retirement planning.

Time: 1-2 class periods

Background: High School students working at their first job typically are not focused on retirement. However, sound financial planning, including planning for retirement, sets up young workers for financial stability throughout their lives. Starting to save for retirement at a young age means that students are able to benefit from compound interest over a greater period of time and thus save substantially more for retirement. It also helps make saving a habit.

Materials:

- Worksheet: Retirement Planning Vocabulary
- Key: Retirement Planning Vocabulary
- PowerPoint: Retirement Planning
- Activity: You're the Expert
- Key: You're the Expert

Steps:

1. Day One
 - a. Distribute the Retirement Vocabulary Worksheet to students
 - b. Present the Retirement Planning PowerPoint and ask students to write definitions on the worksheet during the presentation
 - c. Give time at the end of class to finish the worksheet or assign it as homework
2. Day Two
 - a. Use the activity: You're the Expert
 - i. Divide students into groups of 2-3
 - ii. Pass out a scenario to each group
 - iii. Provide the handout to each group
 - iv. Give groups time to formulate their answers
 - v. Ask student groups to report back on their findings and advice

- b. As time permits, use these discussion questions with the full group:
- i. What did you learn about retirement planning? What surprised you the most?
 - ii. How difficult is it to think about planning for retirement while working, paying bills, and just starting out in life?
 - iii. Why is learning the “art” of delayed gratification an important financial goal?
 - iv. How is the concept of Pay Yourself First like insurance?
 - v. React: Workers should be required to contribute 10% of their gross pay to retirement accounts.
 - vi. List three things you do that help you save money.
 - vii. React to this quote by Samuel Johnson: “It is better to live rich than to die rich.”
 - viii. What advice would you give yourself after finishing this lesson on retirement planning?