

ACTIVITY PACK

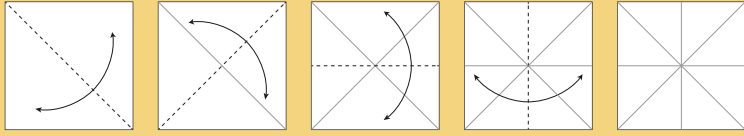
**Fun Tabletop Activities to Empower
Smart Online Safety Decisions**

Lesson Plan:	Clickbait	Grade Level:	Middle School
Objectives:		Materials:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be able to define what clickbait is and how it is used to attract readers. Students will be able to identify examples of clickbait in various media. Students will discuss the ethical implications of clickbait and how it can affect their critical thinking skills. Students will develop strategies for identifying and avoiding clickbait. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whiteboard, chalkboard, smartboard, or projector Computer or tablet with internet access Cootie Catcher handout and worksheet (print version and color versions available) Scissors Color pencils, crayons, or markers (optional) 	
Information:			
<p>Clickbait refers to online content, like articles, videos, or social media posts, that use sensational or misleading headlines or images to get people to click on them. The goal of clickbait is to generate as many clicks as possible, which can translate into more advertising revenue for the website or content creator.</p> <p>However, clickbait can be problematic for a few reasons. First, it can be misleading or dishonest. For example, a clickbait article might make a sensational claim or promise, but then fail to deliver on that promise in the actual content. This can be frustrating and misleading for readers who are looking for real information. They can also be used to trick you into giving away your personal information by asking you to fill out a form or enter your email address.</p> <p>Overall, it's important to be skeptical of clickbait and to be cautious when clicking on links or visiting websites that you're not familiar with. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is!</p>			
Introduction:			
<p>Ask students if they have ever clicked on an article or video online that turned out to be different from what they expected. Have them discuss how they felt when they realized they had been misled. Introduce the concept of clickbait and explain that it is a technique used to attract readers/viewers by using sensational or misleading headlines. Ask students if they can think of any examples of clickbait they have seen online.</p>			
Activity 1: Clickbait In the Wild			
<p>The teacher can have prepared a few examples of clickbait to share with students. Show examples of the links and then the quality of the content beyond the links. Choose a variety such as text articles, products for sale, and even examples of games. Screenshots are sufficient if network access is limited.</p>			
Activity 2: Clickbait Cootie Catcher			
<p>Distribute the Clickbait Cootie Catcher handout. Have the students cut out, fold, and optionally decorate their cootie catcher. Working in small groups of 2-4, have the students use their cootie catchers to generate several clickbait headlines which they can record on their worksheet.</p>			

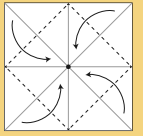
Discussion Questions:	Possible Answers/Prompts:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Why is it important to be able to recognize clickbait?2. What are some strategies for avoiding clickbait?3. How can we be more critical consumers of media?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clickbait is often misleading, distracting, and potentially useless information. Some may even be a security risk.2. Be aware that if something sounds too good to be true it probably is.3. Pause before clicking on headlines or links that give you an emotional or knee-jerk reaction.
Conclusion:	
Have students reflect on what they have learned about clickbait. Ask them to share one thing they will do differently in the future when clicking links or reading articles online.	

CLICKBAIT COOTIE CATCHER

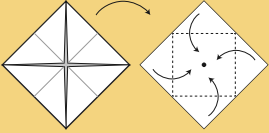
① Fold, crease, and unfold opposite points and sides.



② Fold corners to center.



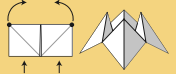
③ Flip over and fold corners to center.



④ Fold bottom to top.



⑤ Put your thumb and index fingers on both hands into the flaps and press the top corners to the center.



Cut along solid line.



THREE (1)

WEIRD TRICKS (1)

STRANGE FACTS (2)

FIVE (2)

NEW DEVICES (8)

You Won't Believe (1)

That Moms Love (2)

TIPS (3)

Teachers Don't Want You to Know (8)

Principals Don't Want You to Know (3)

7 (7)

You Can't Live Without (7)

To Make Your Life Easier (4)

4 (4)

MONEY SAVING TIPS (7)

SHORTCUTS (4)

Dads Everywhere are Raving About (9)

To Pass Any Test (5)

5 (5)

FOUR (4)

CHEATS (9)

HOMework HACKS (5)

SEVEN (3)

NAME:

DATE:

CLICKBAIT HEADLINE GENERATOR

Have your partner select a number 1-4 (the circled number). The word on that square is the first word of the clickbait headline. Open and close the cootie catcher the same number of times as your partner selected. The interior of the cootie catcher will now reveal 4 more numbers and phrases. Have your partner select another number. The phrase on that triangle is the second part of the clickbait headline. Open and close the cootie catcher the same number of times as your partner selected. Have your partner select another number. Lift the flap to reveal the final part of the clickbait headline. Record the headlines you create in the ad windows below.

The image shows four overlapping ad window templates. Each window has a dark teal border and a small 'x' icon in the top right corner. The windows are arranged as follows:

- Top window: A large empty rectangular area with a red button labeled "READ NOW" on the right side.
- Middle-left window: A smaller empty rectangular area with a red button labeled "CLICK HERE" at the bottom center.
- Middle-right window: A rectangular area with a red button labeled "READ NOW" on the right side.
- Bottom window: A large empty rectangular area with a red button labeled "DON'T MISS THIS" at the bottom center.

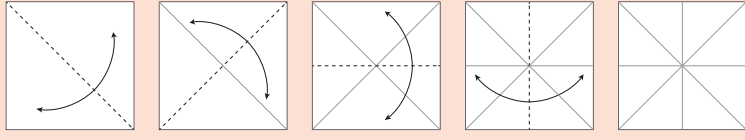
A large, hollow mouse cursor arrow is positioned at the bottom right of the ad windows.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

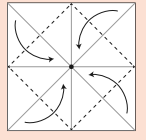
Clickbait often includes **numbers** in the headlines. It gives the link a sense of authenticity by setting out a clearly defined limit to what is behind the link. And in addition, if the number is **odd**, studies show it is more likely to be clicked.

Clickbait Cootie Catcher

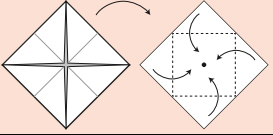
① Fold, crease, and unfold opposite points and sides.



② Fold corners to center.



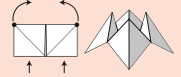
③ Flip over and fold corners to center.



④ Fold bottom to top.



⑤ Put your thumb and index fingers on both hands into the flaps and press the top corners to the center.



Cut along solid line.



A large square template for a cootie catcher. The template is divided into four quadrants by a vertical and a horizontal dashed line. Each quadrant contains a different topic. The corners of the square are marked with circled numbers 1 through 8, and the four sides are marked with circled numbers 3, 4, 3, and 4 from top to bottom. The text inside the quadrants is as follows:

- Top-Left Quadrant:** "Three" (written vertically), "Weird Tricks" (written vertically), "New Devices" (written horizontally), "Teachers Don't Want You to Know" (written horizontally), "You Can't Live Without" (written horizontally), "Money Saving Tips" (written vertically).
- Top-Right Quadrant:** "Five" (written vertically), "Strange Facts" (written vertically), "That Moms Love" (written vertically), "Principals Don't Want You to Know" (written horizontally), "To Make Your Life Easier" (written horizontally), "Shortcuts" (written horizontally).
- Bottom-Left Quadrant:** "Four" (written vertically), "You Won't Believe" (written vertically), "Dads Everywhere are Raving About" (written vertically), "Cheats" (written vertically), "To Pass Any Test" (written vertically), "Homework Hacks" (written vertically).
- Bottom-Right Quadrant:** "Seven" (written vertically), "Tips" (written horizontally).

NAME:

DATE:

Clickbait Headline Generator

Have your partner select a number 1-4 (the circled number). The word on that square is the first word of the clickbait headline. Open and close the cootie catcher the same number of times as your partner selected. The interior of the cootie catcher will now reveal 4 more numbers and phrases. Have your partner select another number. The phrase on that triangle is the second part of the clickbait headline. Open and close the cootie catcher the same number of times as your partner selected. Have your partner select another number. Lift the flap to reveal the final part of the clickbait headline. Record the headlines you create in the ad windows below.

The image shows four overlapping ad window templates, each with a dark blue border and a close button (X) in the top right corner. The windows are arranged in a staggered fashion. The first window (top right) has a blue button labeled "READ NOW". The second window (middle left) has a blue button labeled "CLICK HERE". The third window (bottom left) has a blue button labeled "DON'T MISS THIS". The fourth window (middle right) has a blue button labeled "READ NOW". A blue mouse cursor arrow is positioned at the bottom right of the page.

DID YOU KNOW?

Clickbait often includes **numbers** in the headlines. It gives the link a sense of authenticity by setting out a clearly defined limit to what is behind the link. And in addition, if the number is **odd**, studies show it is more likely to be clicked.

Lesson Plan:	Passwords	Grade Level:	Middle School
Objectives:		Materials:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will understand the importance of creating strong and unique passwords. Students will learn about the risks associated with weak passwords and password reuse. Students will be introduced to password managers as a tool for password storage and security. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whiteboard, chalkboard, smartboard, or projector Computer or tablet with internet access Random Number Generator Password Generator Worksheet (printable) Password Generator Topics (printable) A tournament bracket Scissors Container for paper cutouts 	
Introduction:			
Ask students how they keep their passwords safe. Do they use the same password for multiple accounts? Do they share their passwords with friends? Explain that password security is an important aspect of online safety.			
Activity 1: Create Strong & Weak Passwords			
Divide the class into groups of 3-5. Each group will need the printable topic sheet. Have the students cut out the topics and place them in a container or a pile on their desks. (Alternatively, these slips of paper can be prepared ahead of time and reused.) Using Google's random number generator with the lowest number being 12 and the highest number being 32, generate a number. This number is the minimum number of characters for the password or phrase the students need to create. Have each student in the group select a topic. Their passwords must contain something that relates to that topic. Have the students write down their passwords on the worksheet. Inform them that including numbers, symbols, and upper or lowercase letters improves strength, so long as they can remember the password. Repeat until the worksheet is filled. Remind the students to not use any of their real passwords as answers.			
Activity 2: Password Battle Royale			
Project (or draw) a tournament bracket on the board. There are several options for tournament generators online: https://challonge.com/tournament/bracket_generator https://tournamentmgr.com/bracket-generator Have each student submit a password (it can be strong or weak). If you have an odd number of students, submit a password of your own. This can also be done as teams if class size is too large for each student to submit a password. Using the rules you learned about passwords, determine which password will move on to the next round of the tournament. Repeat until there is one ultimate password. (Bonus: try to determine the weakest password.) If you encounter a tie or cannot decide which password should continue on, there are several sites that can measure your password strength such as: https://bitwarden.com/password-strength/ https://www.uic.edu/apps/strong-password/			

Discussion Questions:	Possible Answers/Prompts:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is it important to use strong passwords? 2. What are some common characteristics of weak passwords? 3. What are some strategies for creating strong passwords? 4. Why is it important to use a unique password for each account? 5. Why is it important to not share passwords? [The exception is with your parents for your safety.] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect personal informations and prevent unauthorized access to online accounts. 2. Easily guessable information such as names, dates, or common phrases or using common dictionary words, sequences such as "1234" or "abcd," or using short passwords with no special characters or numbers. 3. Use long passwords, use passphrases or sentences, don't use personal information. 4. It is important to use a unique password for each account because if one password becomes compromised then other accounts could also become compromised. 5. Sharing passwords puts personal information and security at risk. If passwords are shared, it is difficult to trace the source of suspicious activity on an account.
Conclusion:	
<p>Have students reflect on what they have learned about passwords. Ask them to share one thing they will do differently in the future when creating passwords.</p>	

SPORTS

GARDENING

MOVIES

SONG LYRICS

TRAVEL

FOOD

HISTORICAL EVENTS

FASHION

ART

SCIENCE

BOOKS

ANIMALS

NAME:

DATE:

PASSWORD WARRIORS

You will be creating passwords to go into battle. Only the strongest password will prevail. Your instructor will provide you with a random number that indicates the minimum number of characters you should have in your passwords. Write this number in the space provided. Each group member will select one topic for their passwords. Write this topic in the space provided. Now using that number and topic create a password and record it in the space provided. Be sure to use a variety of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Repeat this process until you have filled in all the passwords. Now, based on what you learned rank your passwords from strongest to weakest (5 stars being the strongest and 1 star being the weakest). Your instructor will ask for you to submit one of these passwords to the Password Warrior Tournament. Feel free to submit any password, even a weak one.

CHARACTERS	TOPIC	RANKING
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="password"/>		

CHARACTERS	TOPIC	RANKING
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="password"/>		

CHARACTERS	TOPIC	RANKING
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="password"/>		

CHARACTERS	TOPIC	RANKING
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="password"/>		

CHARACTERS	TOPIC	RANKING
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="password"/>		

Sports

Gardening

Movies

Song Lyrics

Travel

Food

Historical Events

Fashion

Art

Science

Books

Animals

NAME:

DATE:

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Characters **Topic** **Ranking**

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Characters **Topic** **Ranking**

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Characters **Topic** **Ranking**

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Characters **Topic** **Ranking**

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Characters **Topic** **Ranking**

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