

EL/Civics Lesson Plan

Program Name Euclid EL/CIVICS

Staff Responsible for Lesson Wendy Oliver

Date(s) Used	3/4/10
Civics Category	II. Civic Participation
Civics Objective	16. Community Resources - Security
Time Frame to Complete Lesson	1.5 hours
EFL(s)	NRS 4, 5, and 6
Standard(s)/Components of Performance	Read With Understanding Convey Ideas in Writing
Benchmark(s)	R4.3, R5.3, R6.3 W4.5, 5.5, 6.5
Materials	<p>Article on Neighborhood Watch: http://www.crimepreventiontips.org/crime_prevention_articles/home_safety/neighborhood_watch.html</p> <p>Suspicious activity form: www.ci.antioch.ca.us/CityGov/Police/SUSPECT%20AND%20VEHICLE%20REPORTING%20INFORMATION.pdf</p> <p>Handout 1 - examples of suspicious activity Handout 2- questions Dictionaries</p>
Activities	<p>Discuss crimes in neighborhoods and elicit examples from new of personal experience. I always discuss the time my catalytic converter was stolen off my car in my parking lot at 3PM one week day. Ask students what they think they should do if they notice what might be a crime. Ask students if they have ever heard of Neighborhood Watch programs</p> <p>Students work in pairs reading the Neighborhood Watch article and the list of suspicious activities.</p> <p>Discuss the suspicious activities. Ask if they were surprised by any of them. If they had seen or experienced them, would they have called police? Talk about what you would tell police if you saw the event in question. Ask them how an alert Neighborhood Watch organization might have noticed the problem and alerted the police to prevent the crime. In the case of my converter, the thieves were spotted while</p>

EL/Civics Lesson Plan

	<p>stealing it and reported by a neighbor, but the police arrived too late to catch them.</p> <p>Ask them to fill out the suspicious activity report for a crime they experienced or heard about, either in class today or on the news so they know the kinds of information police will be looking for if they do ever report an activity.</p>
Assessment/ Evidence	Have student write about one of the events discussed in class and describe why it was suspicious and what the Neighborhood Watch group could have done if they had seen it.
Reflection	Students were surprised by some of the activities that were described as suspicious. I emphasized that they could always be innocent but that being safe was better than being sorry and police would prefer to have the report than not. Students expressed reluctance to bother the police or to interact with them. Not sure that they would, even with their heightened awareness of suspicious activity.

HANDOUTS

What is Suspicious?

Anything that seems even slightly "out of place" or is occurring at an unusual time of day or night could be criminal activity. The following are some obvious things to watch for:

- A stranger entering your neighbor's house when it is unoccupied;
- A scream heard anywhere might mean robbery or assault;
- Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices may mean stolen property;
- Anyone removing accessories, license plates, or gas from a vehicle should be reported;
- Anyone peering into parked vehicles may be looking for a vehicle to steal or for valuables left in the vehicle;
- Persons entering or leaving a place of business after hours;
- A sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noises could mean an accident, burglary or vandalism;
- Persons loitering around schools, parks and secluded areas could be sex offenders;
- Persons loitering in the neighborhood who do not live there; and
- Anyone forcing entry to, or tampering with a residence, business, or vehicle should be reported.

EL/Civics Lesson Plan

Things to Watch Out For That Are Not So Obvious:

- **Strangers and solicitors.**

Verify the employment of all solicitors, meter readers and repair personnel prior to allowing them entry into your home. This can be done by obtaining the employer's number from the telephone book or by contacting directory assistance. Never take a telephone number offered by a suspicious person. Be suspicious of alleged delivery personnel with a wrong address or asking if someone lives there.

- **Someone carrying property.**

If it's at an unusual hour, unusual place, or if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased.

- **Someone going door-to-door in your neighborhood.**

Watch for awhile. If after a few houses are visited, one or more persons tries a door to see if it is locked, looks into windows, or goes into a back or side yard, it could be a burglar. Call Elk Grove Police Department immediately; don't wait for the person to leave.

- **Traffic to and from a certain residence.**

It is not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily basis or very regular basis, especially during late or unusual hours.

- **Any vehicle moving slowly and without lights, or following a course that appears aimless or repetitive in any location.**

Particularly in areas of schools, parks and playgrounds. Occupants may be looking for places to rob or burglarize, or they could be drug pushers or sex offenders.

- **Parked vehicles containing one or more persons.**

If it is an unusual hour they could be lookouts for a burglary in progress.

- **An abandoned vehicle parked on your block.**

May be a stolen vehicle.

- **Continuous repair operations at non-business locations.**

It could mean stolen property is being stripped, repainted, or otherwise altered.

EL/Civics Lesson Plan

- **Persons making a quick change of vehicles.**
May be attempting to elude the police or abandoning a stolen vehicle.
- **One or more juveniles walking through the neighborhood looking into automobiles or backyards.**
- **Any person taking a shortcut through a backyard.**

www.elkgrovepd.org/prevention/neighborhood-watch.asp

Place a check mark next to any activity that you think might be suspicious.

1. _____ You see a man in the park next to your house every afternoon and he is not hiking.
2. _____ Someone knocks on your door and offers to sell you designer purses for \$20.
3. _____ Someone is walking past your house that you have not seen before.
4. _____ Your neighbors have a lot of visitors every day after 10 PM.
5. _____ Someone you don't know is taking a license plate off a car parked on your street.
6. _____ Someone is going to the office next to your house on Saturday when it is closed.