



FAMILY  
ECONOMICS &  
FINANCIAL  
EDUCATION

# FEFE NEWS LINK



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## MARCH NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

**CHECK OUT**  
the Catch Me If  
You Can Lesson  
Plan 1.3.3!

- **Identity Theft Issue!** *Find out what to do if identity theft happens to you! See page 2!*
- **Expert Columnist.** *Dr. Michael Sullivan discusses how easy it can be to become a victim of identity theft. Check out page 3!*
- **Active Learning Tools.** *Learn about the Active Learning Tools available and what the FEFE Master Teachers are suggesting! Check out page 5!*
- **Book Review.** *Ever wondered how you can incorporate a trade book into your classroom? Read a review from a FEFE Master Teacher! See page 5!*
- **Want to attend the FEFE National Conference?**  
*Information about this year's National Conference on page 6!*
- **Survey Results!** *See page 7 for details!*

**REGISTRATION  
IS NOW OPEN**  
to attend the  
FEFE National  
Conference,  
June 15-18, 2009!  
See page 7.

## WHAT IS IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft occurs when someone wrongfully acquires and uses a consumer's personal identification, credit, or account information. Individuals whose identities have been stolen may spend countless weeks, months, or even years and hundreds of dollars resolving the problems the thieves have caused. According to the Federal Trade Commission, 10% of identity theft victims during 2005 reported expenses of more than \$1,200.

During a person's lifetime, there will be countless times when personal information is used during everyday transactions. This might include using a debit or credit card at the local store, charging airline tickets, renting a car, applying for a credit card, mailing in tax returns, or using a cell phone to order pizza. These transactions are the activities upon which identity thieves thrive. Each transaction requires a person to share personal information, thereby increasing the possibility of someone stealing their information to commit identity fraud. An identity theft can wreak havoc on an individual's credit report, cause a person to be arrested for crimes they did not commit, or cause them to lose their life savings.

# IDENTITY THEFT






## WHAT TO DO IF IDENTITY THEFT HAPPENS TO YOU

Identity theft can happen no matter how careful a person is. If a person believes he/she may be a victim, they must follow these basic steps:

- ★ Act immediately to prevent any further damage and limit personal financial liability.
- ★ Keep a detailed record of correspondence and phone records including the date, contact person, and any specific comments made or actions which will occur.
- ★ Contact the three major credit bureaus (Equifax – [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com), TransUnion – [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com), and Experian – [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)) and request a “fraud alert” on file, this will warn potential creditors to verify an individual’s identity before issuing credit. There are two types of fraud alerts both of which are free to consumers. An initial fraud alert may be requested if a consumer has been or believes they will be a victim of identity theft. Initial fraud alerts last for 90 days, after that an extended fraud alert may be placed on file. An extended fraud alert will last 7 years and may be requested by a victim of identity theft with an Identity Theft Report, such as a police report or a complaint filed with the FTC. (3) Follow up with a letter and copies of any documentation sent certified mail. In addition, request a credit report from each bureau and carefully check to ensure they are accurate.
- ★ Close all accounts which have been opened fraudulently or tampered with. If accounts have been fraudulently opened or there are charges, file a dispute with the company. When opening new accounts, use different passwords and PIN numbers.
  - ★ Once the dispute has been settled with the company, ask for a letter explaining that the fraudulent debts have been discharged and the disputed account has been closed. This letter can help with resolving problems related to the account on the credit report (4)
- ★ File a police report with the local police or in the local community where the theft took place.
- ★ File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, this can be done at the FTC’s website <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>

### IDENTITY THIEVES OBTAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION THROUGH A VARIETY OF METHODS:

<b>Stealing</b>		A thief can access personal information by stealing a purse or wallet, personnel records from a workplace, or tax information, bank or credit card statements, and pre-approved credit card offers from the mail.
<b>Dumpster Diving</b>		Information carelessly discarded into the trash can be stolen when a thief digs through the garbage.
<b>Diverting Mail</b>		Thieves can complete a change of address form and have the victim’s bills and statements mailed to a different location.
<b>Skimming</b>		Thieves may also “skim” credit or debit card information by attaching a device to card processors.
<b>Phishing</b>		A thief pretends to be a company or financial institution in order to get the victim’s personal information.
<b>Spyware</b>		Software may be installed on the victim’s computer, without their knowledge or consent, that monitors internet use, sends pop up ads, re-directs the computer to other sites, and tracks key strokes. (2)
<b>Hacking</b>		Thieves may break into a computer system and steal information.
<b>Pretexting</b>		A thief may obtain personal information from an employer or financial institution using false pretenses.



## HOW TO BE SOMEONE ELSE

By Dr. Michael Sullivan, Take Charge America Director of Education



Do you want to be someone else? You can! Just share your name and Social Security number and you can be almost anyone. You could be a 62 year old with bad credit who needs to get utilities connected; or a 48 year old illegal immigrant applying for a job; or a 34 year old convicted felon opening a bank account.

There are thousands of people who want to steal your identity. Not only is the record clean, but you aren't likely to check for identity theft. You may assume that people under 18 can't be victims of identity theft, but they can. The examples above are just a few of the ways thieves might use your personal information.

You get dozens of forms requesting your Social Security number. And you may keep your Social Security information in your purse or billfold. The opportunities for theft are almost endless and you may not learn about a theft until much later when your application for credit or security clearance is denied. By that time it can be difficult to straighten things out.

The keys to protecting yourself are:

1. Don't carry your Social Security number! Memorize it; then swallow the paper.
2. Don't give your Social Security number to anyone unless you are sure it is necessary. School photo orders and on line contests should not require it.
3. Get your free credit report at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). If you have no file, you can relax. If you have a file, make sure the information on it is correct.

### Recognizing Identity Theft

Early detection is key with identity theft because the earlier an identity theft is discovered the quicker the fraudulent activity can be stopped. Watch out for these signs of identity theft:

- ★ New accounts or charges that you did not make;
- ★ Calls from collection agencies;
- ★ Being denied credit when you do not believe there is reason to be;
- ★ Missing bills or mailed statements;



The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), a government agency that focuses on consumer protection, reported that over 800,000 consumer fraud and identity theft complaints were filed between January 2007 and December 2007. These instances of consumer fraud and identity theft resulted in losses of more than \$1.2 billion. (1) Approximately 5% of the victims of identity theft in 2006 were under 18 years of age.



## IDENTITY THEFT STATISTICS



★ "ID Theft is a \$53 billion a year industry. Of that, consumer victims pay only \$5 billion a year. The other \$48 billion is paid by the defrauded business—which they then pass right back to consumers in higher prices" (8)

★ "Identity theft costs the nation an annual cumulative sum of approximately over \$15 billion." (1)

★ "Only 1 out of 700 of (identity theft) cases will be prosecuted, and those who get away with it will steal over \$90,000 from each victim." (8)

★ In 2004, "about 1.6 million households experienced theft of existing accounts other than a credit card (such as a banking account), and 1.1 million households discovered misuse of personal information" (7)

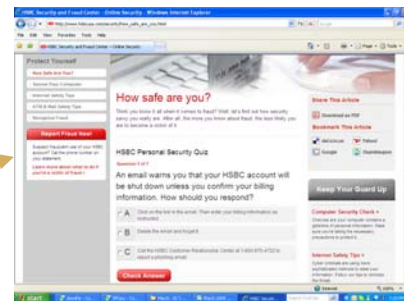
★ "The 2006 victim population was at 15 million victims. That means every minute about 28 ½ people become a new victim of (identity theft), or a new victim in just over 2 seconds." (5)

★ "Identity theft is the fastest growing 'white collar' crime in the United States today. Unfortunately, the average arrest rate is under 5%, making this one of the least convicted crimes." (6)

★ "More than 30 million consumers have experienced identity theft." (1)

### Check out these Web sites for online resources regarding identity theft:

1. Personal Security Quiz from HSBC: [http://www.hsbcusa.com/security/how\\_safe\\_are\\_you.html](http://www.hsbcusa.com/security/how_safe_are_you.html).
2. Identity Theft Game: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/games/id-theft-faceoff.aspx>.
3. Other games and videos: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/default.aspx>.
4. Identity Theft fact sheets, quizzes, and victim's stories and hotlines: <http://www.privacyrights.org/identity.htm>



1. Federal Trade Commission  
<http://www.ftc.gov/sentinel/reports/sentinel-annual-reports/sentinel-cy2007.pdf>
2. OnGuard Online  
<http://www.bankrate.com>
3. Federal Trade Commission  
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/idtheft/idt05.shtm>
4. Federal Trade Commission  
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/consumers/index.html>
5. Identity Theft Resource Center  
[www.idtheftcenter.org](http://www.idtheftcenter.org)
6. WhoStoleMyIdentity.com  
[www.whostolemyidentity.com](http://www.whostolemyidentity.com)
7. US Department of Justice  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov)
8. IdTheft.com  
[www.idtheft.com](http://www.idtheft.com)



# ACTIVE LEARNING TOOLS



The FEFE curriculum has over 35 Active Learning Tools that help to motivate students to fully engage in concepts and maximize knowledge retention with an activity based approach for a wide variety of units and lesson plans. These activities may range from 5 minutes to 35 minutes allowing students to review the most important concepts taught throughout a financial literacy course. Students will compete while enhancing their knowledge by participating in activities such as Money World Squares, Twister, or LIFE Twists and Turns. In addition, they can race around the classroom to review vocabulary terms and important concepts by participating in Zip or True False. Each active learning tool is presented in a ready to teach lesson plan for immediate course integration. To download the active learning tools visit the FEFE website: <http://www.fefe.arizona.edu/curriculum.php?categoryID=27>.

## ASK A FEFE MASTER TEACHER

*Suggestions and ideas for Active Learning Tools to use during the Identity Theft lesson plan 1.3.1*

“When selecting a guest presenter for your finance class make sure that you talk with other professionals who may know something about their presentation style. Once in a while I have brought in guest presenters who made the information seem dry and boring. It is important your presenter has some “zeal” and excitement for what they are presenting or your students will be “turned off” rather than engaged!”



-Joanna Krogstad

“After my students did the Identity Theft 1.3.1 lesson and Catch Me If You Can 1.3.3, I had them create a public service announcement poster. They worked in groups and I used the Catch Me If You Can essay rubric (slightly modified) to grade the posters. Having them work on the posters immediately after watching the movie seemed to capture their creativity to create educational and entertaining posters.”



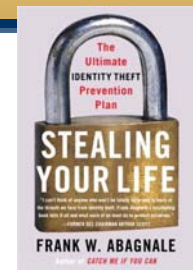
Kathie Beck-



## REVIEW OF FINANCIAL LITERACY TRADE BOOKS *STEALING YOUR LIFE*



With so much publicity on the subject, identity theft is a hot topic of conversation among high school students. Many know someone personally who has experienced the negative effects of their identity being stolen. During our Identity Theft unit in the Young Adult Living class at Mid-Prairie High School in Wellman, Iowa, we explore the trade book, Stealing Your Life, by Frank W. Abagnale, whose life was portrayed in the film, Catch Me If You Can.



The book is subtitled, The Ultimate Identity Theft Prevention Plan, and consists of 13 chapters that spell out both the short-term and long-term inconveniences and consequences of having your identity stolen and along with very clearly written strategies for preventing identity theft. I have several copies of the book in my library and students volunteer to report on a chapter to the class for extra credit. I expect them to present the information in an interesting way, giving them the option of creating an electronic presentation, a tri-fold brochure to distribute to the class, a large poster, or some other interesting or creative way they might come up with to present their information.

—By Glenda Seward, FEFE Master Teacher.

# FEFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009



## FEFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009



Mark your calendars and get ready to attend the **FEFE National Training June 15-18, 2009** in Tucson, Arizona. This one-of-a-kind, highly interactive training honors educators for their diligent work improving the lives of individuals, families and communities with financial education training. The greatly subsidized registration package allows participants to revitalize while receiving an abundance of ready-to teach curriculum materials and new ideas guaranteed to make you want to begin using the materials immediately. If interested, please download the registration packet on the FEFE Web site at <http://www.fefe.arizona.edu/trainingSeminars.php>. Registration is now open!

The standard registration package is \$485 and includes the following:

- ★ **LODGING:** At the Hilton Tucson East the nights of June 14-17, 2009. You are required to share a room with one person. Options are available for single rooms or no lodging for an adjusted registration fee.
- ★ **MEALS:** Daily hot breakfasts, lunches, afternoon breaks and dinner on Wednesday evening are included in the registration fee.
- ★ **EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, \$500 VALUE:**
  - ★ **Take Charge of Your Finances:** Participants will receive hard copies of the thirty-four lesson plans in the Take Charge of Your Finances curriculum assembled in a 3" notebooks in addition to supplemental materials required to teach the course. A list of the lesson plans included can be found at: <http://fefe.arizona.edu/takeCharge.php>.
  - ★ **Get Ready to Take Charge of Your Finances:** Participants will receive a 1" notebook with hard copies of Get Ready to Take Charge of your finances lesson plans. Information about Get Ready lesson plans can be found <http://fefe.arizona.edu/educationalResources.php>.
  - ★ **Facilitation Binder:** Participants will receive a binder that will have many worksheets and valuable resources to be carried with them to each session during the conference.

**REGISTER NOW** through April 13 to receive the early bird discount! (\$50 added to registration fee after April 13).



"This has been without a doubt the best conference I've ever attended. I will use all of the information. So well organized!"

-2008 Conference Attendee

# FEFE SURVEY UPDATES



## FEFE SURVEY FINDINGS

The FEFE project would like to thank everyone that took the FEFE survey in January, your feedback is very important to us! We would also like to congratulate the drawing winners that received free registration to the FEFE National Conference by completing a survey.

*Nine drawing winners were awarded free registration to the FEFE National Conference!!*

What is Credit 1.4.3 was voted the most important FEFE lesson concept to be covered in a family finance course, followed by Developing a Spending Plan 1.15.2.

Currently, the FEFE Web site has **14,700** users with an average of over **nine** educators per day creating a user account during the past year.

Among survey respondents, **80%** of educators are interested in attending a FEFE training and **26%** have already attending a FEFE training.

The majority of survey respondents indicated they learned about FEFE from a professional conference or another educator.

It is exciting to watch middle school students realize the importance of good money management and the difficulty of trying to live on minimum wage in our society. Until they play the bean game or tried to build a marshmallow tower given certain disabilities, they can't explain why it's important to invest in themselves, stay in school, continue their education past high school and gain employability skills! It is simply amazing to see them have that "light bulb" moment.

- Montana Educator

Fantastic program at all levels. I can incorporate financial education into other classes and the hands on activities and two tiers of instruction help to meet needs of special education and homebound students.

- Michigan Educator

Survey respondents (89.5%) indicated that the activity based lessons were their favorite feature of the FEFE project.

High-quality, relevant materials that can be used the same day as you find them. I don't have to do much tweaking to make it "perfect" for my classroom. Thank you!

- Pennsylvania Educator