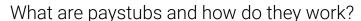
Reading Your Paystub | Lesson Plan





Students will understand the importance of paystubs, learn how to interpret them and identify practical steps to apply the information for effective financial planning.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain what a paystub is and how it works.
- Define key terms associated with paystubs, including pay period, gross pay, net pay, and deductions.
- Explore types of paystub deductions (taxes, retirement, and insurance).
- Consider financial action items to take in the future using paystub information.

Key Vocabulary:

- Paystub: A paper document provided by an employer that breaks down earnings
- Pay Period: The time of work which an employer is paying a worker for
- Gross Pay: The total amount of your salary earned
- **Net Pay**: The part of your salary kept (gross pay minus deductions)
- **Deductions**: The money removed from earnings by an employer

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.7, CCRA.R.10, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.W.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6

Academic Subject Areas: Financial Literacy, Decision Making, Personal Responsibility, Personal Finance

What You'll Need

- Video: Ca\$h Cour\$e: Reading Your Paystub (Watch Here)
- Worksheet: Ca\$h Cour\$e: Reading Your Paystub (Click Here)
- Use classroom whiteboard and dry-erase markers (Or use a technology solution if available).

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: What are paystubs? (10 mins.)

- 1. Encourage students to talk about their after-school schedules and routines, as well as any schedules they have for sports, lessons, or other activities.
- 2. Create a two-column chart on the dry-erase board with headings for the positive and negative aspects of having a schedule. Invite students to contribute their thoughts as you record them on the board.



Highlight the importance of knowing when events happen through schedules, drawing a
parallel to handling earned money. Introduce the concept of paystubs as a tool for
financial scheduling and planning.

Watch and Complete: 25 mins.)

- 1. Announce that the class will watch a video to learn about paystubs—instruct students to pay attention to how paystubs are helpful and why they are essential in managing finances.
- Show the video to the class.
- 3. After watching the video, invite students to share what they learned about the usefulness of pay stubs. Record their responses on the dry-erase board. Then, prompt a discussion on potential issues that could arise without a pay stub.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

- 1. Hand out the "Ca\$h Cour\$e: Reading Your Paystub Worksheet" for students to complete, providing time for this task.
- 2. Review the worksheet answers as a group, addressing challenging areas and answering students' questions.
- 3. Lead a discussion about the insights gained on paystubs. Encourage students to talk about how understanding paystubs can contribute to better financial planning and a secure financial future for themselves and their families.

Extension Activities:

- Research Assignment: Have students research different types of deductions (e.g., federal taxes, state taxes, Social Security, Medicare, retirement contributions) and present their findings to the class.
- Mock Paystub Creation: Ask students to create a mock paystub for a fictional employee, including various deductions and calculating net pay.
- Budgeting Exercise: Using the net pay from their mock paystub, students can create a monthly budget, categorizing expenses and planning savings.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (10-15 mins.)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video. Or, have students watch the video at home and use the worksheet as a quick quiz the next day in class.