



GRADE 6+

Reading Your Paystub | Lesson Plan

What are paystubs and how do they work?

Students learn why paystubs matter, how they work, and which action items to take to effectively utilize the information on their own paystubs in the future.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand 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 which 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: Financial Literacy, Decision Making, Personal Responsibility, Personal Finance

What You'll Need

- Video: Ca\$h Cour\$e: Reading Your Paystub



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: Ca\$h Cour\$e: Reading Your Paystub ([Download PDF](#))
- Classroom whiteboard and dry-erase markers (You may use a technology solution if available).

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

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

1. Ask: *Do you have a schedule when you get home from school? What do you do first...Next...Just before you go to sleep? Do you have schedules for other activities, like sports, lessons, etc.?* Allow students to share ideas and suggestions with the group.
2. Ask: *How does having a schedule help us? What are some consequences of NOT having a schedule?* Create a two-column chart on your dry-erase board with headings to record positive and negative responses. Allow students to share as you record.
3. Say: *It is helpful to know when things are happening by having a schedule. This is true when handling the money you earn. Today we will learn how to know when you will be paid and how to use a simple yet helpful tool called a paystub.*

Watch and Complete: 25 mins.)

1. State: *We will watch this video and see what we can learn about paystubs and then answer some questions about what we have learned.*
2. Watch the video.
3. Ask: *While watching the video, what did you learn about why having a paystub is helpful?* Add student responses to the dry-erase board. Ask: *What do you think some consequences would be if you did NOT have a paystub?* Allow students to share.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Distribute the Ca\$h Cour\$e: Reading Your Paystub Worksheet and have students complete it.
2. After the assessment (you may choose to collect or not), work through the questions as a class and discuss any areas where students needed help, still needed to complete it, or had questions.
3. Discuss: *What did you learn about paystubs? Are they helpful? How can understanding your paystub help you take action to provide a better financial future for yourself and your family?*

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.