

CLASSROOM GUIDE · 30 MINUTES

Pause, Check, Decide

A ready-to-print discussion guide for helping students notice pressure, check claims, and keep money decisions thoughtful.

LEARNING GOAL

Students identify pressure tactics, separate facts from assumptions, and choose a safer verification step.

SAFETY BOUNDARY

Use fictional names, companies, messages, and amounts. Do not ask students to share family finances, account details, addresses, private messages, or personal experiences with scams.

01 · OPEN

Start with a real question

Write the fictional message below where everyone can see it. Ask: **What words are trying to control your attention?**

02 · EXPLORE

Name what you notice

Mark each sentence as claim or evidence; fact or assumption; and safe or unsafe request.

03 · APPLY

Explain the safest next step

In pairs, rewrite the response and name one verification step that does not use a link or number from the message.

THE FICTIONAL MESSAGE

READ ALOUD

“URGENT: A famous investor’s AI found a guaranteed winner. Send \$25 in the next 10 minutes. Do not tell anyone or you will miss out.”

The three-move routine

- 01 **Pause** before clicking, sharing, paying, or giving information.
- 02 **Check** the identity and claim through a separate, trusted source.
- 03 **Decide** after considering risks and involving a trusted adult.

Make the reasoning visible

The aim is not a perfect answer. It is a safer process that students can explain to someone else.

A possible response

MODEL

“I will not send money or information. I will close this message, check the claim through an official source, and show it to a trusted adult.”

Pair activity

- [] Underline the words that create urgency, secrecy, authority, or social pressure.
- [] Circle the part that could be checked independently.
- [] Rewrite the safest response in your own words.
- [] Name a separate source or trusted person you could use.

Exit ticket

One pressure tactic I noticed:

One fact I would verify:

One separate channel I could use:

One reason polished AI content is not proof:

EDUCATOR NOTE

This is general education, not financial, legal, or investment advice. Use local school AI and safeguarding policies. Canadian and U.S. reporting and regulatory processes differ.