



How Secure is Social Security?

Student Handout

Group 2: OPERATIONS

Your group will report on how the Social Security program works; how contributions are made, where they are “stored,” and how benefits are disbursed. You are encouraged to develop visual aids to assist in their presentation. Review the Social Security Basics at

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/social_security/reform/faq_flash.html to prepare your presentation. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10024.html#simpleconcept> and at <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/ProgData/fundFAQ.html>

1. Describe how the Social Security works? (Explain how contributions are made, how the “pay-as-you-go system” works and how recipients receive their benefits.)
2. Explain why the Social Security system was created?
3. Explain the significance of the numbers on the Social Security card.
4. Describe the different types of benefits available to individuals.
5. Explain how the Medicare program fits into the picture (Explain how it relates to FICA and how contributions to Social Security taxes are divided up between Social Security and Medicare.)
6. Develop a chart or other visual device that explains how the Social Security Trust funds work. (Explain what they are, how they are created, and when they are predicted to be unable to meet their obligations.)