

Writing about borrowing

Students discuss good borrowing and lending behaviors and then write an expository, persuasive, or narrative paragraph about being a good borrower.

Learning goals

Big idea

When we borrow something, it's important that we are responsible with it and return it on time.

Essential questions

- What are responsible borrowing behaviors?
- Why is it important to be a good borrower?

Objectives

- Identify good borrowing behaviors
- Understand the importance of being a good borrower

What students will do



- Read about responsible borrowing behaviors.
- Write a paragraph about being a good borrower.

NOTE

Please remember to consider your students' accommodations and special needs to ensure that all students are able to participate in a meaningful way.

KEY INFORMATION

Building block:

-  Financial habits and norms
-  Financial knowledge and decision-making skills

Grade level: Elementary school (4-5)

Age range: 9-11

Topic: Borrow (Getting loans)

School subject: English or language arts, Social studies or history

Teaching strategy: Direct instruction

Bloom's Taxonomy level: Understand, Apply

Activity duration: 45-60 minutes

National Standards for Personal Financial Education, 2021

Saving: 4-2, 4-3

Managing credit: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3

Managing risk: 4-1, 4-2

These standards are cumulative, and topics are not repeated in each grade level. This activity may include information students need to understand before exploring this topic in more detail.

Preparing for this activity

- While it's not necessary, completing the "Becoming a trustworthy borrower" activity first may make this one more meaningful.
- Print copies of all student materials for each student, or prepare for students to access them electronically.

What you'll need

THIS TEACHER GUIDE

- **Writing about borrowing** (guide)
[cfpb_building_block_activities_writing-about-borrowing_guide.pdf](#)

STUDENT MATERIALS

- **Writing about borrowing** (worksheet)
[cfpb_building_block_activities_writing-about-borrowing_worksheet.pdf](#)

Exploring key financial concepts

Sometimes people borrow money and other things from people who are willing to lend it to them. A borrower takes something from someone and promises to give it back. A lender gives something to someone that the person will return. For example, if someone uses your bike, they are the borrower and you are the lender.

When you borrow something, it is important to be a trustworthy and responsible borrower. Some possible ways to be a responsible borrower are to:

- Ask for permission to borrow something.
- Ask when you should return it.
- Take good care of it while you're using it.
- Return it on time and in good condition.
- Thank the person who lent it to you.

Doing those things will make you a responsible borrower. It's important to be a responsible borrower so that the person you borrow from will trust you and let you borrow something again.

TIP

Because products, terms, and laws about borrowing and lending change, students should be encouraged to always look for the most up-to-date information.

Teaching this activity

Whole-class introduction

- Ask students if they've ever borrowed something from someone.
 - If they have, ask what kinds of things they borrowed.
 - Examples might include a library book, art supplies, or an outfit for a party.
- Ask students if someone has ever borrowed something from them.
 - If so, ask them what things they lent to someone.
 - Ask those students if they were ever worried about the thing they lent to someone and why.
- Be sure students understand key vocabulary:
 - **Borrow:** To receive something on loan with the understanding that you will return it.
 - **Lend:** The act of giving something to someone with the understanding that they will give it back to you.

TIP

Visit CFPB's financial education glossary at consumerfinance.gov/financial-education-glossary/.

Individual work

- Tell students they'll read about good borrowing behaviors and then write a paragraph about borrowing.
- Give each student the "Writing about borrowing" worksheet.
- Students will complete the worksheet independently.
- Tell them they can choose to write an expository, persuasive, or narrative paragraph. You can explain the styles if necessary:
 - **Expository writing** explains things. Students can use this style to explain what it means to be a good borrower.
 - **Persuasive writing** tries to convince someone to do something. Students can use this style to persuade someone to let them borrow something.
 - **Narrative writing** tells a story. Students can use this style to tell a story about a person who is a responsible borrower.
- Students will read the "What makes a good borrower" section on the worksheet and then choose a writing style listed on the worksheet.
- They'll use the checklist on the worksheet to organize their paragraphs.
- Students will then write their paragraphs.

Wrap-up

Ask for volunteers to read their paragraphs to the class and share the writing style they chose.

Suggested next steps

Consider searching for other [CFPB activities](#) that address the topic of borrowing, including getting loans. Suggested activities include "[Sharing a story about borrowing](#)" and "[Borrowing and lending money](#)."

Measuring student learning

Students' paragraphs and responses during discussion can give you a sense of their understanding.

Keep in mind that students' paragraphs may vary, as there may not be only one right approach. The important thing is for students to have reasonable justification for their approach.