

Stopping Cybercrime: Create-A-Password Activity

(For elementary or middle school students)

1. Ask the class as a group for a word or phrase—the first one shouted out will do.
2. Write that word/phrase on the chalkboard. This will become the password.
3. Have them look at the list of password "dos" in the *Stopping Cybercrime* workbook (under the "yes" sign).
4. Modify the password one item at a time until you've done everything on the list:
 - Count the characters. If there aren't 8, add something until there are.
 - Make something uppercase (assuming the rest are lowercase).
 - Add a number.
 - Add a special character (punctuation or a symbol).
 - Look at it now—Is it unusual? Unique? Unpredictable?

The resulting example password *would* have been a good one!

(Explain that now it's not, of course, because the whole class saw it! But that shows them how to work through creating a strong one, step-by-step.)