Password Tips
Student Handout

Name(s)                 Class                   Date

Directions
Read the tips below on how to make and use strong passwords. Then read stories about Jessie and Krystal and answer questions about their passwords. Use the tips to make new passwords for Jesse and Krystal.

DO’S
• DO share your password only with your parents.
• DO create passwords with at least eight characters.
• DO use combinations of letters, numbers, and symbols, which are harder to crack than just words.
• DO change your password regularly – at least every six months.

DON’T’S
• DON’T give a password to anyone else – not even your friends.
• DON’T use passwords that are easy for people you know to guess, like your nickname or your pet’s name.
• DON’T use any private identity information in your password.
• DON’T use a word in the dictionary as a password.

Use Common Sense!
Know the kinds of private identity information:
• Full (first and last) name
• Email address
• Passwords
• Credit card numbers
• Mother’s maiden name
• Postal address
• Phone numbers
• Calling card numbers
• Social Security number

Parent Signature:
Password Challenge
Student Handout

Directions
You will create one strong and one weak password for an important historical figure. Both passwords should indicate something that is special or unique about that person. Use the “Do” tips from the Password Tips Student Handout to create the strong password, and use the “Don’t” tips from the same handout to create the weak password.

Example for Abraham Lincoln:

**Strong**: 4score7yrs (“Four Score and Seven Years Ago …”)

**Weak**: HonestAbe

**YOUR HISTORICAL FIGURE**: ________________________________________________

**FACTS OR INFORMATION YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOUR HISTORICAL FIGURE**: ______

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**STRONG PASSWORD**: ________________________

**WEAK PASSWORD**: __________________________

Directions
Place check marks in all of the boxes that describe your answers to the questions below.

1. **How did you come up with your strong password? What strategies did you use?**
   - [ ] I chose something that was connected with my person, but not too obvious.
   - [ ] I replaced certain letters with numbers and symbols.
   - [ ] I abbreviated words.
   - [ ] Other: _______________________________________________
2. What makes your weak password less secure than the strong one?

- □ I didn’t use any numbers.
- □ I used whole words that were commonly associated with my person.
- □ I used the person’s name or an obvious nickname.
- □ Other: _______________________________________________

3. How could the weak password be more secure without changing it a lot?

- □ Abbreviate words.
- □ Replace letters with numbers/symbols.
- □ Spell out words in number form (A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4 ...).
- □ Other: _______________________________________________
Smart Passwords?

Directions: Read the following stories and answer the questions.

Jesse lives in Lawrence, Kansas – the home of the University of Kansas. He has a pet rat named “Phil” and is a big fan of the Kansas Jayhawks men’s basketball team. Jesse chose “jayhawks” as his password. Did he make a safe choice? Why or why not?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Krystal lives in Miami, Florida. Her birthday is August 4, and she swims on a team. Her password is “krswim84.” How did Krystal choose her password? Was it a safe choice? Why or why not?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

You Try It!

Directions: Using the tips above, make new passwords for Jesse and Krystal. Explain how Jesse and Krystal can remember their passwords.

Jesse ____________________________________________________________

Krystal ___________________________________________________________