

CIA Case Officer: Creating a Dead Drop



Adventure Description:

In this adventure, students will think like a CIA Case Officer and create a dead drop for the delivery of top-secret information.

Activity

Step One: Background Information on CIA Case Officers, Agents, and Dead Drops (10 minutes)

- Explain to students that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is responsible for the acquisition of secret information from foreign governments and spies. This information can be in regards to terrorist organizations, secret government operations, warfare, and illegal activities.
- CIA Case Officers, also known as operations officers, are responsible for spotting, assessing, developing, recruiting, and handling non-US citizens with access to foreign intelligence (secret information). This intelligence helps keep our government informed about the secret, illegal activities that are happening in the world. If allowed to continue, these activities could cause our country to be in danger or threatened by other countries. Show [Handout: CIA Case Officer Responsibilities](#). Discuss the responsibilities of case officers.
- Explain to students that obtaining information from agents can be very dangerous for case officers. If the case officer and the agent are caught, the case officer risks being captured by the organization they are trying to infiltrate. At the very least, the case officer will be removed from the country and sent back to the States. The agent risks life, limb, employment, and their reputation. It is very important that the transfer of information remains secret.
- Tell students that because it is so important for information transfer to stay secret, case officers dedicate a lot of time to choosing the best option for the transfer. Show [Handout: Methods of Intelligence Transfer](#). Discuss the different methods for transferring intelligence from the case officer to the agent.
- As CIA case officers for this activity, students will be using dead drops as the method of intelligence transfer. Dead drops are one of the most common methods of intelligence transfer.
- Dead drops are not easy—the case officer must determine a location for the drop, and an item that will contain the drop that will protect it from weather and someone else who might be looking for, or accidentally find, the drop. Show [Handout: Dead Drops](#). Discuss the different dead drops on the handout.

Step Two: Choosing a Mission (10 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will think like a CIA case officer and create a dead drop for a chosen mission.
- Provide students with [Handout: Creating a Dead Drop](#). Explain to students that they will be choosing a location to create a dead drop for.
- Have students complete step 1 on the handout. Students will read the options for missions and locations.

Please contact Allison Bischoff, Director of Teacher Support, at allison@rozzylearningcompany.com or 314-272-2560 with questions.



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- Extra Time? Have students conduct research their chosen location to better assess what items would be best to use in the mission location.

Step Three: Creating a Dead Drop (40+ minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now create the dead drop for their mission.
- Give students 15-20 minutes to complete step 2 on the handout. Encourage students to be creative in imagining where and when the drop will take place.
- Have students read the requirements on step 3 on the handout.
- Next, provide students with art supplies and building materials to complete step 4 on the handout.
- Have students showcase their designs to the class.
- Have a concluding class discussion about how CIA case officers use dead drops as a method for transferring intelligence.

Materials List

Provided online:

- Handout: CIA Case Officer Responsibilities
- Handout: Methods of Intelligence Transfer
- Handout: Dead Drops
- Handout: Creating a Dead Drop

Not provided (Each group needs):

- Art supplies and building materials

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