

# Income Tax – Compliance

**SUBMITTED BY:** WGYP Summer Educator

**SUBJECT(S):** Accounting

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 9, 10, 11, 12

## ≡ OVERVIEW:

In this lesson, students will learn about income tax and what goes into it.

## ≡ NBEA STANDARD(S):

- Accounting, VII. Compliance

## ≡ RELATED ARTICLES:

- [“The Paycheck Breakdown: What You Earn Is Not What You Keep”](#)
- [“Sharing Your Income with Uncle Sam: The Realities of Taxation”](#)

## Common Core Standard(s):

- CCR Standard for Reading: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**Objectives/Purposes:** Students will be introduced to income tax and its different components. Students will be exposed to a W-4 form and begin to fill it out.

## Other Resources/Materials:

- Computer
- PowerPoint Presentation on Income Tax
- Handout (W-4 Form)

**Activity Day:**

1. Do Now: What do you know about income tax? Write your answers down. (5 mins)
2. Teacher will let students share their answers. Then the teacher will introduce the idea of income tax. (5 mins)
3. Teacher will go through the powerpoint presentation. As the teacher goes through the presentation it is interactive so that students are writing down answers and sharing their ideas. (20-25 mins).
4. The last part of the presentation has students looking at a W-4 form and trying to go through it. The teacher will give a copy per student and either in small groups or as a class go through it. (10 mins)
5. Teacher will pass out the article “The Paycheck Breakdown: What you Earn Is Not What You Keep.” This article goes into talking about what money is taken out of a paycheck. Students can read this in small groups, independently or as a class. As they read it they should try to answer the following questions (questions posted on board):
  1. What is the overall message of this article?
  2. How does this article relate to the income tax presentation?
  3. How does this article relate to you?
6. Wrap Up: Students will share one thing they learned about income tax. (5 mins)

**Practice Outside of the Classroom:**

Students will go home and interview their parents or someone they know about income tax. Get a person’s perspective of what it means and how they go about doing it.

**What Worked and What I Would Do Differently:**

If the teacher has computers available for students, he or she can have the students go through the presentation in small groups. The class can go over it before starting on the W-4 form.