INVESTIGATE AND REPORT SCAMS

Find a scam or get-rich scheme. Get approval from your instructor before you begin. If you have been the victim, your experience might be the best source.

Possible sources of information:
- www.snopes.com
- www.inventionconvention.com/ncio/scambusters/index.html
- www.frbsf.org/publications/consumer/fraud.html

Investigate
These questions are for your research. You do not have to answer all the questions, and you may have to ask your own questions. (Remember, most scams rely on the “victim” being greedy, desperate, kind, and generous or financially ignorant.)
- How does the scam work?
- Who is the target?
- Who will be hurt?
- What is the economic impact?
- What makes it believable?
- Do you think the average person would fall for this scam?
- Do all scams rely on greed to be successful?
- What emotion does this scam depend upon?

Your product
Choose one of the following.
1. Write an editorial warning people about this scam. Cover the subject. Include everything one would need to know and your opinion of those who perpetrate the scams and those who are victims. Your goal with the editorial is to chastise the criminals and inform and warn the victims.

2. Create an ad which warns victims of this scam. Include all the information, and make up a place for people to report the scam. Your ad can be for a newspaper, TV, radio or a magazine. It can be on posterboard, PowerPoint or another medium.

3. Create a brochure that warns people by explaining the scam or get-rich scheme.

4. Come up with your own idea for using this information.