

THE BIKE THIEF

GEOPRIVACY VIDEO SERIES

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/469577526](https://vimeo.com/469577526)

SUMMARY

A woman posts an ad on Craigslist for a bicycle in her yard. She posts her full numbered home address in the ad and specifies that the bike is "just collecting dust in the backyard." A thief soon arrives to the address, peeks over the back fence, and carries the bike away.

ACTIVITIES

Take a poll of if students have ever posted a home address online, whether to sell something, or as part of a social media profile. Did students consider any potential risks before posting the address?

Privately, have students search for their home addresses in Google. Do any personal results come up, related to family names, ages, ethnicity, net worth, or home price? Which websites are these results on? Are there any inaccuracies?

Research recent news reports of burglaries in your neighborhood or town. Are any linked to the use of location technology, such as GPS, posted home addresses online, or geotagged social media posts?

RELEVANT ARTICLES

Unlisted: Variations in Location Sharing by Craigslist Users. Seidl, D. and Allen, C. 2016. https://www.cartogis.org/docs/proceedings/2016/Seidl_and_Allen.pdf

Man is Accused of Using Instagram Photos to Burglarize College Sorority Members in Fullerton and Orange. Rocha, V. 2016. <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-instagram-burglarize-sorority-students-20160224-story.html>

Please Enter Your Home Location: Geoprivacy Attitudes and Personal Location Masking Strategies of Internet Users. Seidl, Jankowski, Clarke, and Nara. 2020. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2019.1654843>

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Is there any reason you might want your full home address to go in an online ad?
- Can you think of any risks besides burglary that might result from posting a home location online?
- What are some safer methods of sharing location if your goal is to eventually meet with a stranger to sell or buy a product?
- Are there particular categories of items for sale that require better protection of location privacy than others (i.e. expensive goods or child products)?