

What Information Can I Safely Share Online?

TOPIC: ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY

GRADES: 3-5

LESSON DURATION: 1-2 HOURS

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the differences between public information and private information.
- Students will practice safe online behavior regarding Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Materials:

- [Student worksheet](#)

Activities:

1. The teacher should review with the students the differences in public and private information. This should be done as a class discussion. Students should be reminded of basic safety issues when listing the private information. Students also should be reminded that privacy settings don't equate to privacy.
2. A whole class discussion on the difference between public and private information should occur. Students can be asked to list information that can be shared publicly (first name, nickname, interests, etc.). Next, ask them to list information that should remain private (full name, birthdate, address, phone number, family details, present location, specific details such as teachers name, specific hobbies, etc.). Friends and strangers do not need access to the same information. When in doubt, ask a "trusted adult" before giving information.
3. The teacher can then shift the discussion and ask students when and where online they are asked for information. Possible answers include games, social media websites, apps, etc. Why do these applications ask for information? What are they doing with the information gathered? (Answer: selling it to advertisers).
4. Next the teacher can ask how the information is gathered (Answers: cookies, forms, contests, quizzes/surveys, chat rooms, etc.).
5. Explain that now students are going to do a bit of online research to become more aware of marketing and privacy online. Prior to starting the activity, ask students to list their favorite websites and those that they use the most. Social media is a viable option. Develop a list of the answer on the board.
6. Split the class into small groups. Each group will need at least one device with internet access. Assign each group 2-3 website from the list compiled through class participation.

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7. Each group should then complete [the activity](#) over the websites assigned to them. Allow them time to explore and find the answers. Some websites are easier to navigate than others.
 8. When all groups are done, allow them to share information on one of the websites that they researched.
 9. Wrap up with a reminder of the value and necessity of protecting our online information.
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Enrichment/Follow-up:

- The teacher can place students in small groups and allows them to role play through the scenarios on this hand-out. Students should discuss the proper actions that should be taken.
- [Scenarios are available here.](#) Teacher discussion points are included on page 2.

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