

A Discussion on Privacy Today

TOPIC: ETHICS

GRADES: 9-12

LESSON DURATION: TEACHER DISCRETION (AT LEAST 45 MINUTES)

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION, CRITICAL THINKING, COLLABORATION

Introduction:

- Privacy versus security. The never-ending question of balancing the two fundamental concepts is a constant theme. This lesson allows students to comprehend the difficulty in establishing set terms in defining privacy. Students will also look at generational differences while coming to terms with their own views and behaviors regarding privacy.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will experience the difficulty in establishing privacy standards to an ever- evolving field.
- Students will be able to voice their own personal view of privacy and contrast it with another opposing view.
- Students will develop a definition of privacy suitable for a company of their choosing.

Activities:

1. Optional introduction to the topic (* teacher should preview prior to showing in class due to college level humor). [Adam Ruins Everything: Why Facebook Isn't Free](#)
2. If the teacher decides to use the topic as a classroom discussion, introduce the topic by asking: What information is collected on you daily and by whom? (Possible topics include: cameras, social media, websites, cell phone activity, GPS, toll booths, biometric data while shopping in stores like Target, shopping habits via frequent shopper programs, pictures, etc.)
3. Next ask students to think through the following questions and individually write down some ideas.
 - A. How is my information collected?
 - B. How do advancements in technology change my view of privacy?
 - C. What does privacy mean to me?
 - D. What will privacy mean in the future?
4. Ask students to share their thoughts. As they share prompt the discussion with your own examples of privacy. For instance, many elderly people do not want to use online banking because they feel like it is impersonal and they don't trust the computer. However, these same individuals have Facebook accounts and put their information out there on social media. A teenager will slam the door and demand privacy from their parents while in the same instance, broadcasting all their problems all over social media. So, what does privacy really mean?

© 2018 Teach Cyber



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#).

5. The moral of the story is that most of us demand privacy but our actions do not follow. Without thinking about it, we allow companies and technology to give open access to many of our daily movements.
6. Therefore, what is privacy? Allow students time to develop a concrete definition of privacy. Pair them up and allow for peer review of the definition. Encourage students to question and critically analyze each other's opinions in a civil fashion.
7. The teacher obviously knows the class well enough to allow the conversation to continue if needed.
8. The teacher may choose to end the discussion with a prompt for individual analysis that makes the discussion personal and allows students to consider their online actions: If you were tasked with developing a law protecting a person's right to privacy, what would that law state?

Enrichment/Follow-up:

1. This lesson could easily be turned into a lesson on research methodology and/or statistics. For example, a sociology teacher may choose to have students do a survey study of the differences in defining privacy by age group. A survey using random samples from determined demographics while following standard research methodology would allow students to explore the idea. A statistics teacher could use the same idea for students in a pre-existing statistical project.
2. The teacher may also choose to enhance the discussion by having students read (or attempt to read) privacy statements of social media websites or google. Allow students to process what is stated and maybe also what is not stated. After reading these policies, are laws needed or is everything already stated and we just need to take the time to read before signing up?

© 2018 Teach Cyber



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).