

# Being Smart on Social Media

TOPIC: ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY

GRADES: 3-5

LESSON DURATION: 45 MINUTES

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION, CRITICAL THINKING, RESEARCH

---

## Learning Outcomes:

- Through an in-class discussion, students will verbalize the positive and negative aspects of social media.
- Students will create a poster/presentation to share the basic dangers of oversharing on social media.

---

## Activities:

1. The teacher should begin by explaining that today the class will be discussing social media. This lesson can be done in a unit on online safety, laws, current events, social studies, etc. It can be repeated during grades 3-5 and should be used with or right before students appear to be active on social media (varies by school).
2. Ask students to list the different social media platforms that are available. There are probably varying degrees of knowledge so this is best done as a whole class discussion.
3. The teacher can then ask students which accounts they use versus the accounts used by parents, siblings, friends, etc. The teacher can also ask why each age group might use the social media. Possible answers include communicating with family, getting news, talking to friends, knowing what is going on, sharing videos/pictures, etc.
4. Ask students to brainstorm some possible positive uses of social media (see above). Give them time to think. Then ask students to list some possible negative aspects of social media (time waster, mean people, fake news, dangerous people, arguments, etc).
5. The teacher can then begin a basic discussion of appropriate use of social media-this can include a discussion on the fact that everything posted, liked, commented on, etc is there forever (digital footprint) and can never be removed. It can also consist of online safety via social media (never post when gone from the house, never post locations, don't allow followers you do not know, don't engage in chats with people you don't know, let trusted adults know if someone is being weird online, etc).
6. The teacher can then review positives and negatives of social media.
7. As a small group project, the students could be asked to create a "safety tips for social media" poster. The students should develop 5-6 safety rules. Posters could be displayed throughout the school.

© 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/).