

6 Degrees of Information



Overview

Students will watch the video “6 Degrees of Information” and discuss how involved they are on social media sites. They will then rate their digital footprints to determine if they overshare or keep their information relatively private.



Materials / Preparation

- Video - “6 Degrees of Information”
- Attachment 1 - “What’s Your Digital Footprint?”
- Computer lab or computer hooked up to an LCD projector
- Chalkboard/whiteboard



25 minutes



Introduction

Write the phrase “Social Media by the Numbers” on the chalkboard/whiteboard. Then poll the students to see how involved they are in social media. Write the answers to the following categories on the board:

- Total number of social media sites/apps used
- Average number of friends/followers
- Average time spent online in a day

Now ask students: *Do you think there is any such thing as being too connected?* Allow some time for discussion.



Activity

Watch the video “6 Degrees of Information” and then ask students: *Do you think you ever overshare, share just enough, or share almost nothing online?* Explain to students that the researcher was able to find so much information about the teens in the video because they left a lot of digital footprints (e.g. linked accounts, accounts that share email addresses or profile pictures, posts that included personal information, etc.).

Give every student a copy of “What’s Your Digital Footprint?” (Attachment 1). Ask students to use the

rating system to determine if they leave a big digital footprint or a small one. When they are done, have a few volunteers share their totals, then ask: *Are you comfortable with your digital footprint? What can you do to reduce it?*

(Possible answers include: Check the privacy settings on the social media sites and apps you’re using; only friend or “follow” people you know and trust; think twice before posting something that could embarrass you or someone else; remember that if it’s posted online, it’s not private.)



Follow-Up

Give students extra copies of “What’s Your Digital Footprint?” so they can pass them out to friends. Encourage them to spread the message about reducing their digital footprints.



What's Your Digital Footprint?

Which social media sites and apps do you use the most?

Write your top five in the list below and then fill in the footprints according to the rating scale.

How much of a footprint do you leave on each site/app?

Digital Footprint Rating Scale



» **You post on here all the time**, you have tons of friends/followers, and you don't filter yourself...ever!



» **You post on here often**, you have a good number of friends/followers, and you're sometimes careful about what you post.



» **You post here sometimes**, you have some friends/followers, and you are usually careful about what you post.



» **You are rarely on here**, you have very few friends/followers, and you are always careful about what you post.



» **You can't even remember the last time you used this.**

1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



Total number of footprints: _____