

## 6 Degrees of Information



### Overview

Students will watch the video “6 Degrees of Information” and discuss what kind of information is too much to post online. They will take a teen magazine-style quiz to see what kind of Internet user they are.



### Materials / Preparation

- Video - “6 Degrees of Information”
- Computer lab or computer hooked up to an LCD projector
- Attachment 1 - “Which teen are you?” Quiz



25 minutes



### Introduction

Ask students: *What does the acronym TMI stand for? (Too much information) Have you ever seen someone post something online that you consider to be TMI?* Allow some time for discussion.

See if teens are able to identify from their examples if the person who shared TMI was sharing personal information, something inappropriate, or something embarrassing.



### Activity

Show the video “6 Degrees of Information.” Ask students the following questions for discussion: *Did any of the teens in the video post TMI? What about their friends or family?* Review what Matt the researcher was able to find in just six clicks and ask students: *Do you think Matt could find out a lot of information about you in just six clicks?* Remind the students of the different ways Matt was able to find out so much—by following links to other accounts, using Google to search an email address, and paying attention to what friends or family posted.

Give every student a copy of the “Which teen are you?” quiz (Attachment 1). Allow them five minutes to take the quiz and then ask them to share their results. Ask them: *Are you surprised by your result? Does this make you rethink what you post online?*



### Follow-Up

Suggest that students show their friends the “6 Degrees of Information” video and give them extra copies of the “Which teen are you?” quiz. Encourage them to challenge their friends to rethink how much they post online.



## Which teen are you?

How much do you share online? [Take this quiz to find out!](#)

### 1. You just got food poisoning from a new restaurant. You...

- a. Write a cryptic post on Facebook about not eating at that restaurant ever again.
- b. Give them a bad review online.
- c. Mail a strongly worded letter to the manager.
- d. Tweet details of how much you got sick...with pictures.
- e. Tell your friend how much you liked it so he'll go, too. It'll be hysterical!

### 2. You want to go see the big summer blockbuster this weekend. You...

- a. Group text 15 of your closest friends.
- b. Tweet the details to see if anyone else wants to go.
- c. Call your friends on the phone to make plans.
- d. Tweet to ask if anyone wants to go. Tweet when you find out the movie times. Tweet when you decide on a time. Tweet when you get to the theater...you get the idea.
- e. Think carefully about who you want to go with and send them a private message.

### 3. You had a fight with your best friend. You...

- a. Unfriend her on Facebook. If you make up later, you can just friend her again.
- b. Complain about it in a gamer forum. Those guys are pretty good listeners.
- c. Go over to his house and talk it out.
- d. Instagram pictures of how you're feeling, like a boiling pot of water and a weeping willow tree.
- e. Text his girlfriend flirty messages. She's cute. Why not?

### 4. A new game came out this week and everyone is playing it on their phones. You...

- a. Buy it. You don't want to be left out when your friends talk about it.
- b. Already have it and beat it...twice.
- c. Don't really care. The only app you use is your calendar to keep track of your busy schedule.
- d. Post the score of every game you play on Facebook.
- e. Check it out just to see what the hype is.

### 5. Your crush asks you out. You...

- a. Stalk his Twitter account to see if he mentions you.
- b. Send her a link to a playlist of your favorite songs.
- c. Introduce yourself to her parents.
- d. Change your relationship status to "In a relationship."
- e. Make sure she didn't post about it online.

### 6. Your parents surprised you with a European trip over the holidays. You...

- a. Wonder how big of a cell phone bill you'll rack up from all that overseas texting.
- b. Create profiles on a few travel websites and start asking people for tips on what to do.
- c. Gladly leave your cell behind. You won't miss it.
- d. Call your cell phone company to make sure you'll have full Internet access in every country.
- e. Download a few language apps so you can ask out girls in other languages.

### 7. You lose power during a storm and your cell is about to run out of batteries. You...

- a. Charge it in the car. Who cares about wasting gas and car batteries? You have people to talk to!
- b. Check all of your accounts and notify your friends that you'll be offline for a while.
- c. Turn it off. You weren't using it anyway.
- d. Head out to the nearest 24-hour coffee shop with free Wi-Fi and get comfy. You can't be unplugged for even a minute.
- e. Welcome the quiet. You were having a hard time keeping all of your accounts straight anyway.

### 8. It's your birthday and you want to celebrate. You...

- a. Create a Facebook event and invite everyone on your friends list.
- b. Plan a game-a-thon with your gaming buddies from all over the world.
- c. Go out for pizza after the game with your team. You like it simple.
- d. Create a Twitter account named "My Birthday" and tweet things like "It's going to be epic" and "I bought a piñata" for weeks before the party to get people excited.
- e. Throw two parties. You need to keep some party guests separated.



4:20 PM

### If you answered...



**Mostly A's - You're Kayla!** You're a social butterfly who's always online. You don't post anything bad, but keep an eye on your friends and family. They might not be as trustworthy as you think.



**Mostly B's - You're Nick!** You're a gamer who likes to talk, talk, talk. You spend a lot of time online and leave a ton of footprints. Are you sure you've covered your tracks?



**Mostly C's - You're Will!** You're a busy guy who doesn't have much time to be online. You don't have a lot of patience for technology, but are you missing out? That's for you to decide.



**Mostly D's - You're Elise!** You're fully connected and can't go a minute without telling the world what you're thinking, but is every thought worth sharing? You need to work on editing yourself.



**Mostly E's - You're Logan!** You're a scheming bad boy juggling at least two different online personas, but you're bound to slip up sometime. Might as well come clean now.