

Digital Footprint & Identity



DIGITAL FOOTPRINT & IDENTITY

We define
who we are.

Digital citizenship: thinking critically and using technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate

Instructions

It's important to be aware of the impression we make online, both as kids and adults. Evaluate your own digital footprint and decide: What impression do you think you make? Get one or more family members together to help. Read the setup before doing the activity together!

Setup

Read aloud: When we think about the things we share online—pictures, posts, text messages, and comments—we get a snapshot of our digital footprints. Looking at our online selves from the outside, what would our impression be? Answering the questions below can give us an idea of how others might see us online.

Activity

Read aloud: After we read and answer the questions as honestly as possible, let's talk about the kind of impression we make online. Then we can talk about the impression we might be making.

- Do I share pictures of other people without permission? (Grown-ups: This includes sharing pictures of kids.)
- Do I make jokes in texts, posts, or comments that are often misunderstood?
- Do I make negative comments about people anywhere online?
- Do I post to try to create a perfect appearance?
- Do I ever post anonymously or use anonymous apps to talk about others?
- Do I ever post pictures of parties or events that I know some of my friends weren't invited to?
- Do I ever post or text something that I wouldn't say to someone's face?

Think and talk about your answers. What impression do you think you make online? Is there anything you want to do differently in the future?

Learn more about how to define your digital footprint at commonsense.org/digital-footprint-tips-for-families/!