



November

We are critical thinkers and creators.

Media Literacy addresses important concepts such as bias, opinion, author's purpose, and critical thinking. It also includes asking specific questions and backing up your opinions with facts. With young kids, you can discuss things they are familiar with such as commercials, food wrappers, and toy packages. With older kids, you can talk about YouTube videos, ads, and news outlets. With each, ask questions like "who made this," "what do they want you to believe or do," and "why would they want that?"

Use these 5 tips to help kids become critical thinkers and smart consumers:

Encourage healthy skepticism.

Help them analyze the messages around them and question the purpose of the words and images they see.

Play "spot the ad."

Ask kids to figure out what the ad is selling and why certain pictures, sounds, or words are used to sell certain products.

Explore different sides of a story.

Use real-life examples to help kids understand how people can view the same situation with totally different perspectives.

Discuss fact vs. opinion.

Play around with ideas and decide which are facts and which are opinions. Point out that both facts and opinions show up in the news, but opinion is usually labeled.

Choose a variety of sources.

Show kids how you get news and information from different places, and explain how you make your choices.

Welchester Elementary

December

We care about everyone's privacy.

As we continue our Digital Citizenship, we will be learning about **Privacy & Security**. This includes learning about online privacy and the potential implications of sharing private information with friends, the public, app providers, and more.

At home you can support your student(s) in understanding Privacy & Security. With young children, you can compare online with real-life scenarios where private information should not be shared (like interacting with a stranger in a store). With older children, you can talk about encountering clickbait, setting up strong passwords, and messaging with people online.

Try these 5 tips to help kids learn about online privacy:

Discuss personal vs. private info.

Talk about the difference between what's OK to share online (favorite color) and what's not (home address).

Use privacy settings.

Together, go through the settings on all new apps to make sure you both know what information your kids are sharing.

Avoid location tracking.

Location-aware apps can be super helpful. But apps that use a device's location to help people find your kid or offer them ads for nearby businesses should be used with caution. Turn them off if you can.

Power up passwords.

Work together with kids to help them come up with complex passwords. Use phrases and special characters that make passwords hard to guess but easy to remember. Remind kids to keep passwords private and change them regularly.

Skip quizzes.

Help kids identify and avoid clickbait, quizzes, special offers, and anything that asks for personal or private information. This helps keep information secure and devices safe.

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 our digital footprint. Follow the footprints to see what you can learn about each person. Get one or more family members together to help. Don't forget to read the setup before doing the activity together!

Setup

Read aloud: What we do online leaves digital footprints that can give clues about what we do and who we are. We should be aware of the digital footprints we're leaving and the person that we appear to be to others online.

Activity

Read aloud: Let's follow the digital footprints, read the clues, and talk about what we learn.



Watched YouTube Minecraft videos



Played Minecraft on a public server



Searched online for articles about Iceland

Based on the footprints, what did you learn about this person? Discuss with each other.



Posted picture on Instagram of friend next to Hillside Elementary School sign



Searched for soccer shorts on Amazon



Streamed Imagine Dragons on Spotify

Based on the footprints, what did you learn about this person? Discuss with each other.



Played Roblox and used chat



Watched Guardians of the Galaxy on Netflix



Used Google Docs to write a report

Based on the footprints, what did you learn about this person? Discuss with each other.

Learn more about how to define your digital footprint at [commonsense.org/family-tips-on-digital-footprint!](https://www.commonsense.org/family-tips-on-digital-footprint/)