PLTW Virtual Learning

6th Grade Intro to Tech

April 23, 2020

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Lesson: April 23

Objective/Learning Target:
Students understand the benefits and drawbacks of presenting themselves in different ways online.

Warm-Ups:

Have you heard the term "finsta"?

If you haven't, a "finsta" means a fake Instagram account used for posting to a specific group of people or to post anonymously.

Do you think it is right or wrong to create a "finsta" (keeping in mind that the Instagram terms of service require you to be 13 or older to create any kind of account)?

Lesson Introduction/Background Information:

Watch this video about Who Are You Online? to give you more background, especially since a lot of you don't have social media experience if you aren't 13 yet (if you are following the terms of service!)

[Watch video](#)

Why do people create finstas? There are a variety of reasons, but some include:

- To post about topics that only certain people will be interested in (e.g., video games, soccer, skateboarding, etc.). These are called affinity groups.
- To post messages and images that are more casual or personal for close friends and family. Some people prefer to keep their main account more carefully curated. To curate means to select, organize, and look after a collection.
- To post messages or images that are hidden from certain people (i.e., parents, teachers, grandparents, etc.).
- To post things that they don't want to be associated with in real life (private thoughts, inappropriate jokes, mean comments, etc.).

Practice:

Make this chart on a piece of paper and start listing reasons for and the results of having fake social media profiles.

Directions

Use the table to capture notes about the reasons for and results of fake social media profiles (e.g., finstas).

Reasons For	Results Of

Practice:
What *reasons* and *results* can you add based on the following scenarios?

Scenario 1:
Brian is a big basketball fan and uses a finsta, "bballhooper1," to post about his favorite team. He posts comments about the team's games and gets into debates with other fans. He sometimes calls people "stupid" or "bandwagon" if they disagree with him.

Scenario 2:
Jolie likes to keep her "real" profile carefully curated because her parents and family can see it. She uses a finsta for other posts, like videos she posts of herself trying to learn a popular song on the piano and making lots of funny mistakes. She shares the video with two close friends.

Scenario 3:
Mikayla loves playing the online game OverSeen, where players use avatars to play. She uses a finsta to post pictures of her gameplay and comment on other players. She sometimes uses her finsta to respond to people who have commented on her real profile page.

Practice:

Is it worth it to have and use fake social media accounts? Why, or why not?

On your chart piece of paper, use your own experiences with social media and what you've heard today to decide on your position (yes or no) and your reason(s).

Identify specific examples that show your position and reasons.

Self-Assessment:

If you have social media, use this checklist to evaluate what you are posting. If you don't, see if someone else in your house is willing to go through this checklist with you about their social media.

- ❏ 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?

Extend Your Learning/Continued Practice:

Apply what you have learned by completing the ["Online Identities" Activity](#) on TestDrive, a social media simulator.

You go through a self-guided activity to reinforce key concepts and practice managing online identities.