📄 Day 4: Lesson 3-5 College Bound

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Essential Question

How can information you post on the Internet affect your future opportunities?

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to...

- learn that they have a public presence online called a digital footprint.
- recognize that any information they post online can help or hurt their image and future opportunities, including their chances for college admission or employment.
- consider how to present an authentic and positive image of themselves online.

Pride in Your Digital Footprint

Define: the Key Vocabulary term **Digital Footprint (all of the information about a person that can be found online)**

Discuss with students how the inforamtion in a digital footprint becomes public by being copied and passed on so that it can be searched and viewed by a large, invisible audience. Also, discuss the fact that the information in a digital footprint is often permanently online, because it is archieved in a variety of ways and passed on by others.

Show Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJ3qdP7tkOU

Discuss

Q1: Abba says that some people behave differently online from how they do offline. Do you know people who act one way in person and another way online?

Q2: Think about your different audiences on the social media sites you use and any online communities in which you participate. Who makes up each audience? (Who folllows you on each platform? Are you public or private?) Are you always aware of all these protential audience members when you post?

Q3: Abba says a lot of colleges search for applicants on social media. Do you think this is fair? If a college looked at your social media right now, would your digital footprint be

more likely to help or hurt you?

Q4: What kinds of positive interests or activites do you share online? How could you make your digital footprint even more postitive?

Q5: Abba talks about a "digital footprint," which refers to all the information about a person that can be found online. What can you do if someone else puts up a picture of you or a post about you that you don't want as part of your digitial footprint?

Q6: Abba describes some pictures that some kids don't consider "bad" because everyone in their peer groups are postinig similar ones. But outsiders might see the pictures and think differently. Does this ring true for your experiences?

Recap:

Q1: What were some of the messages that stood out to you in this video? Can you relate to Abbas? Why or why not?

A1: Students' answers will vary.

Q2: Abbas says that he thinks colleges would actually "kind of like his Facebook page." What examples does Abba give about how he has created a postive digital footprint for himself?

A2: Sample responses:

- **He posts a lot of pictures with his family, which shows that he's really active with his family members.**
- **A lot of the statuses he puts up are connected to the volunteer work that he does at a community organization for youth.**
- **He posts music that he creates, which shows people his talent and that he's pursuing his interests**

Q3: Do you think you should judge someone solely based on what you find about them online? Why or why not?

A3: Students should recognize that someone's online presence might include things that were intended to be private, or inaccurate information posted by someone else. It could even include information about another person with the same name. Therefore, it may not give a complete or balanced picture of the person.

Share with students how information that they post today could affect themselves and others in the future - for better and for worse. Point out that this online material may affect them as they apply to college or think about future jobs and opportunities. Encourage students to consider that they have the ablility to shape their online profile so that it presents an image they can be pround of.

Wrap-Up

ASK

Q1: How is a digital footprint created? Why does the information in a digital footprint often become public, and why is it permanent?

A1: Students should know that a digital footprint is all the information online about a person either posted by that person or others. The information in it can become public because it can be searched, copied, and passed on so that it plays a large invisible audience. It can be difficult or impossible to remove, and it therefore becomes a permanent part of their online image.

Q2: What types of online information would help present the most positive image of you?

A2: Students should realize that their reputation may be enhanced be information on interests and activities, opinions, and material givng a consistent picture of oneself.

Q3: What are some of the larger ethical implications of sharing information online about others?

A3: Guide students to reflect on how people can influence the digital footprints of others - for better or for worse - and how it is therefore the responsibility of a good citizen to be mindful of what they post about others.