



# 10 themes of digital citizenship

## Being online:

- **Access and Inclusion:** Skills to overcome digital exclusion and participate in digital spaces that are open towards minorities and diversity of opinion
- **Learning and Creativity:** Skills to face the challenges of technology-rich societies with confidence and competence, in innovative ways
- **Media and information Literacy:** Skills to interpret, understand and express creativity through digital media, with critical thinking

## Well-being online:

- **Ethics and Empathy:** Skills to recognise other people's feelings and perspectives in order to act ethically online
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Skills to recognise issues and opportunities that affect wellness in a digitally rich world, such as online addiction, the excessive use of mobile devices or ergonomics
- **ePresence and Communications:** Skills to build and maintain an online presence and identity as well as online interactions that are positive, coherent and consistent

## Rights online:

- **Active Participation:** Skills to become fully aware of our interaction within digital environments to make responsible decisions whilst participating actively in society
- **Rights and Responsibilities:** Skills to recognise our rights of privacy, security, access and inclusion, freedom of expression... being aware of our ethical responsibilities to ensure a safe digital environment for all
- **Privacy and Security:** Skills to properly manage personal and others' information shared online and to deal with online safety to avoid dangerous or unpleasant situations
- **Consumer Awareness:** Skills to understand the implications of the commercial reality of much online space in order to maintain one's autonomy as a digital citizen

# Digital citizenship for digital natives

What is a **digital native**?

- Someone who learns to navigate the physical world and the digital one at the same time, like children who watch educational videos from a young age

What are some **advantages** of being a digital native?

- Access to endless amounts of information and resources
- Possible strengths for the digital jobs of the future

What are the main **challenges** for digital natives?


- Becoming a good citizen in the digital world
- Being safe, honest, resourceful and respectful both online and in person





# The responsibilities of a digital citizen

- A **responsible digital citizen** should:
  - Behave lawfully, without hacking, stealing, illegally downloading or causing damage to other people's work, identity or property online
  - Protect their own privacy and that of others
  - Recognise their own rights and responsibilities when using digital media
- Remember: having a good **media literacy**, that is, the technical skills needed to use online resources, does not necessarily make you a responsible digital citizen.



## MEDIA LITERACY: 5 questions students should ask about media

---

 1. Who created this message?

 2. What techniques are used to attract my attention?

 3. How might different people interpret this message?

 4. Which lifestyles, values, and points of view are represented? (or missing?)

 5. Why is this message being sent?

# Elements of digital citizenship: BALANCE



- Spend your time online healthily and reasonably:
  - Establish limits to prevent screen time inhibiting other activities
  - Leave time for other needs like sleep, physical activity, and family or social time
- *This will make you a **balanced digital citizen**: You will make informed decisions about how to prioritize your time and activities online and off.*

<https://www.iste.org/explore/5-competencies-digital-citizenship>

<https://www.waterford.org/resources/elements-of-digital-citizenship-for-digital-natives/>

# Elements of digital citizenship: SAFETY AND PRIVACY



- Protect your privacy
  - Share only what personal information is strictly necessary
  - Avoid sharing any information that can be used to track you down
  - Create strong passwords for your accounts, and never share them with anyone
  - Protect and update your passwords frequently
  - Regularly update privacy settings on social media sites
  - Turn off unnecessary location settings and services on devices and apps
- Be wary of scammers and predators
  - Beware of online interaction with strangers
  - Be sceptical when using digital media
  - Remember that people aren't necessarily who they say they are
  - Be cautious about what you share, especially with strangers
  - Remember: if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is
  - Don't click website pop-ups – they may lead to unsafe pages
- *This will make you an **aware digital citizen**: You will be aware of your online actions and know how to be safe and create safe spaces for others online.*

<https://news.temple.edu/nutshell/2020-10-06/digital-citizenship-0>

<https://www.iste.org/explore/5-competencies-digital-citizenship>

<https://www.waterford.org/resources/elements-of-digital-citizenship-for-digital-natives/>

<https://medium.com/@australianchristiancollege/raising-responsible-digital-citizens-df282c7b88d9>

# Elements of digital citizenship: RESPECT

- Think before you post
  - Make sure what you post is appropriate and polite
  - Ask yourself: “Would I say this in person?”
  - Avoid posting to your social media while emotions are high
- Stand up to cyberbullying
  - If you become the target of cyberbullying, remember that you are not to blame. Talk about your problem with a trusted adult to find a solution
  - If you are a witness of cyberbullying, speak up! You might help a person in need
- Report illegal activities
  - Report any suspicious activity you come across



This will make you an **inclusive and engaged digital citizen**: You will be open to hearing and respectfully recognizing multiple viewpoints, and you will engage with others online with respect and empathy. Moreover, you will use technology and digital channels for civic engagement, to solve problems and be a force for good in both physical and virtual communities.

<https://news.temple.edu/nutshell/2020-10-06/digital-citizenship-0>  
<https://www.iste.org/explore/5-competencies-digital-citizenship>  
<https://www.waterford.org/resources/elements-of-digital-citizenship-for-digital-natives/>  
<https://medium.com/@australianchristiancollege/raising-responsible-digital-citizens-df282c7b88d9>

# Elements of digital citizenship: CRITICAL THINKING



- Check where your information comes from
  - Use more than one search engine
  - Consider anonymous search engines like Startpage, DuckDuckGo and Swisscows
  - Fact-check your information
  - Check the sources of the information you share
- Decipher fact from fiction:
  - Use your critical thinking skills to evaluate the accuracy and veracity of the information you find online
- *This will make you an **informed digital citizen**: You will evaluate the accuracy, perspective, and validity of digital media and social posts*

<https://www.iste.org/explore/5-competencies-digital-citizenship>

<https://news.temple.edu/nutshell/2020-10-06/digital-citizenship-0>

<https://www.waterford.org/resources/elements-of-digital-citizenship-for-digital-natives/>

<https://medium.com/@australianchristiancollege/raising-responsible-digital-citizens-df282c7b88d9>



# Other important elements of digital citizenship

## Connecting

- Connect with your loved ones safely
- Follow rules of social Netiquette

## Learning

- Take advantage of online educational resources
- Use search engines and information websites well

## Respecting copyright laws

- Don't plagiarise content: always cite your sources

# The 4 R's of digital citizenship



# What is a digital footprint?



A **digital footprint** is data that is left behind when users have been online.

A **passive footprint** is made when information is collected without the person knowing this is happening.

An **active digital** footprint is where the user has deliberately shared information about themselves (on social media or by using websites).

It is important to remember that **once something is posted online, it is very difficult to erase it completely.**



# How to clean up your digital footprint

---

- **Search your name** to see what you can find online about you
- **Scrub your public data:** contact websites that may have your personal data on display to have it removed
- **Audit your accounts:** look for all your old social media and delete all the posts and accounts that no longer reflect the best of yourself
- **Adjust privacy settings** to minimize the exposure of your personal data (photos, posts, location, addresses, birthdate...)
- **Clear your browser history** regularly
- **Clean up your computer,** deleting temporary and duplicate files
- **Clean up your phone** of old text messages, cookies, images and browser history data
- **Be mindful of others:** think before you share or repost negative or sensitive content, and ask permission before tagging others online

# How to minimise your digital footprint

- **Turn off location settings** on your phone and only use them when necessary
- **Uninstall the apps** on your phone you don't need
- **Avoid using your real name** when creating online accounts unless you absolutely have to
- Set your privacy on social media to **limit the number of people who can read your content**
- **Avoid oversharing** on social media. Don't post pictures and videos of your home and belongings
- **Have different email addresses** for work / school and for personal accounts
- **Fortify your main accounts:** use a strong password, set up a connected back-up email and turn on multi-factor authentication
- **Delete old emails, messages and accounts** you no longer need
- **Unsubscribe** from emails you never open, and **delete spam** emails without opening them

