



## Privacy and You Activity Volunteer Guide

### Description

In this session, families will complete an activity to decide how and what they should share online. At the end of the activity, please have parents and students write their thoughts and reflections on the poster paper. You will present the poster for 30 seconds at the end of the night.

### Activity Time

15 minutes

### Resources Needed

- 1 Volunteer Leader
- 1 copy of the Privacy and You Participant Handout per pair (50 copies for 100 attendees)
- Desks or tables to sit in pairs
- Pens on each table or desk
- Timer
- 1 poster paper for wrap up comments

### Directions to Start the Activity

Welcome families as they enter your session. Help them to find a seat together and organize them into pairs. Pass out one activity handout per pair. When everyone has arrived at your station, use the script below to introduce the activity.

To start your activity session, SAY:

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Over the next 15 minutes, we will be talking about something we should all be paying a little more attention to—our privacy while we're online. In this session, we will be determining our personal boundaries about what should be shared online, how it should be shared, and what should be kept private.

Take 5 minutes now to complete the first page of the handout in front of you, the side labeled Demographics.

*[Circulate to ensure people are writing things down. Make sure you give them a one-minute warning. When the full five minutes has elapsed, continue with the script.]*

Thanks everyone for filling out that part of the handout!



You make decisions about your privacy every day, especially when you go online using your mobile device or other digital devices. Often, you may not spend a lot of time thinking about each decision you make about what to share. But they all add up to become your own unique understanding of privacy.

Privacy is the ability to control what other people know about you. You can do this by saying certain things about yourself (like telling other people your address or what you like to do for fun) or doing things around other people (like going to a store with your friends and picking out what you want the most). Privacy matters whether you are in a room with other people or talking to them online.

Privacy is based on your own decisions. What privacy means to you and your family might be very different than what privacy means to the other people in this group and their families. If we're more aware of what we value as private, and how our behaviors online can shape our privacy, we'll be able to make better choices about what kind of privacy we want.

Now we're going to engage in a quick game about privacy that will help you consider how you think and feel about privacy. Take the handout you completed, walk around the space, and introduce yourself to another participant. You and the other participant will then ask each other questions about the information that is on the handout. Don't show the handout itself to the other participants! Your handout won't be collected at the end of the activity—you are free to take it home or throw it away if you'd like.

In every conversation, each participant must ask three questions to a partner. It's always okay to answer questions with "I prefer not to share". After both partners have asked three questions, switch to a new partner. How much information will each participant share? What information will each participant share? Let's walk and talk!

*[Allow participants 5 minutes to walk around the space and interact with each other. Afterwards, engage in a discussion with the entire group using the following questions. At the end, make sure the participants either throw their handouts away or take them with them, don't collect the sheets. When five minutes has elapsed, continue with the script.]*

Okay everyone, let's discuss as a group! I have a few questions to see how that felt for everyone.

- Are these facts public information? Private? Why? Is this the same for everyone?
- Which facts did you share? Why?
- Which facts didn't you share? Why?
- Did everyone make the same decisions about what to share? Why / why not?
- Depending on who you share with, why might you share more, or less, of this kind of information? When would you share it?
- Was there anything that you did share during this activity that you would not have shared with everyone you know? Why not?



Thanks everyone! Great discussion. As you just heard, people made different decisions about what to share and what not to share. They also had various reasons for their choices.

What we just did was a game. But we make these same types of decisions every day in real life. We decide whether or not to post specific photos online. We decide whether or not we want specific contact information, such as our email address, publicly available on our social media accounts. What we decide may be different from what our best friend decides or even what we decided last month. Even if we make the same decisions at two different points in time, our reasons might be different.

These various decisions and reasons represent our personal understanding of privacy.

Simply stated, privacy refers to how we choose to handle information about ourselves. This information can include parts of our identities, activities, preferences, routines and other aspects of our lives. In today's digital world, there are more opportunities than ever before to share information about ourselves with others. It's important that we become aware of our own understanding of privacy, and that we think about whether we're comfortable with that understanding or not.

You can continue this activity at home. On the back of the sheet there are different scenarios about privacy. You can use these scenarios to discuss what your family feels should and should not be shared.

### Close the Activity

Thank you everyone for your participation today! Take a couple of minutes to write a thought, reflection or something you learned from the session today on the poster paper here. I will sign your passport when you're ready.

### Close the Activities

At the end of the third session, SAY:

Please take out your phones at this time and open the survey that was sent to you by the PTA when you registered for this event. We will have a few minutes in the close out session to complete this as well.

