



Be Smart with Social Media

Chose the highest privacy settings on your Facebook and MySpace page. Consider a privacy setting that only allows people you know and trust to access your page, such as a class, a team, or group to which you belong.

Do not post your home address, phone number, date of birth, or social security number on your Facebook or MySpace page. You may not want to post other identifying information, such as the name of your school or where you hang out, as people may use this information to find you offline.

Only post information that you want other people to see and know about you. Anything you post may be read by someone like your teacher or coach. Information you post today may be read years later by an employer when you are applying for a job or by a college admission officer when you apply to college.

Think about whether you want to post a picture of yourself online. Other people can copy your picture and alter it or post it on different sites. If you do post a picture of yourself, carefully chose the picture. Ask yourself if it is a picture that you would want displayed in your school yearbook.

Be careful flirting with strangers online. Some people lie about who they are so you never know who you are talking to. Do not agree to meet an online friend in person.

If you receive an inappropriate picture on your cell phone, email, MySpace or Facebook page, delete the picture. Do not forward the picture. Tell a trusted adult, such as a parent, relative, coach, or teacher, that you received an inappropriate picture.

If someone sends you an inappropriate picture or message, tell this person to stop. If the person continues to send you inappropriate pictures or messages, you may consider blocking their number on your phone or blocking their email address.

Do not text or post a message you would not feel comfortable seeing on the front page of the newspaper. Once you text or post something you can never take it back, even if you delete the message.

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