

Trillion Dollar Footprint

Essential Question

What is a digital footprint, and what does yours convey?

Lesson Overview

Students learn that they have a digital footprint, which can be searched, shared, and seen by a large, invisible audience. Students then learn that they can take some control over their digital footprint based on what they post online.


Students watch the video “**The Digital Footprint**” to learn how information online can easily get out of one’s control. They then examine the blog posts, photos, and profiles of two fictional host applicants for a TV show called “Trillion Dollar Footprint” and decide which would make a more honest host who works well with others. A key message of the lesson is that although online information provides an incomplete picture of a person, it can still affect how others view that person.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to ...

- learn that they have a digital footprint and that information from it can be searched, copied and passed on, and seen by a large, invisible audience, and that it can be persistent.
- recognize that people’s online information can be helpful or harmful to their reputation and image.
- consider their own digital footprints and what they want those footprints to be like in the future.

Materials and Preparation

-  Preview the video “**The Digital Footprint**,” and prepare to show it to students.
- Copy the **Choose a Host Student Handout**, one for every four students.
- Review the **Choose a Host Student Handout – Teacher Version**.
- Copy the **My Digital Footprint Student Handout**, one for every student.

Family Resources

- Send home the **Protecting and Respecting Privacy Family Tip Sheet**

Estimated time: 45 minutes

Standards Alignment –

Common Core:

grade 6: RI.4, RI.7, RI.10, W.4, W.10, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.1c, SL.1d, SL.2, SL.6, L.6

grade 7: RI.4, RI.10, W.4, W.10, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.1c, SL.1d, SL.2, SL.6, L.6

grade 8: RI.4, RI.10, W.4, W.10, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.1c, SL.1d, SL.2, SL.6, L.6

NETS•S: 1a-c, 2a-d

Key Vocabulary –

digital footprint: all of the information online about a person either posted by that person or others, intentionally or unintentionally

imagery: drawings or illustrations, often symbolic

persistent: lasting a long time, if not forever, such as information that one posts online that does not go away because it is passed on and spread

invisible audience: anyone who can see information about you or posted by you online

introduction

Warm-up (10 minutes)

ASK: How many of you have ...

- sent a message or posted a comment online?
- created a profile on a social network site?
- used some sort of photo-sharing app?
- Googled your own name? Were there any results about you? (Allow a few students to provide examples of what they found.)

EXPLAIN that filling out a form, sending an email to a friend, posting a photo, and pretty much everything one does online – even the simple act of visiting a website or using a search engine – leaves a trail. This trail, called a digital footprint, is made of bits and pieces of information on one’s computer and on other computers and servers around the world, which allow other people to learn about you.

teach 1

Play Video (10 minutes)

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary terms **digital footprint** and **imagery**.

 **SHOW** students the “**The Digital Footprint**” video. Before starting the video, remind students to carefully observe the imagery in the video and to think about what the images might convey about privacy. Offer students an example of imagery (for example, the Trash Bin icon on their computer that serves as a “garbage can” for their files). After the video is over, briefly review the meaning of the following imagery in the video as it relates to digital footprints and online privacy.

- **Lighthouse:** Search engines and social network sites can reveal a lot about people. It’s easy to discover information about people using the Internet.
- **Copies and Whispering in Ear:** Information online can be forwarded to many others, sometimes after having been altered first.
- **Stadium/Jumbotron:** Anything can be publicly broadcast online for all to see.
- **Permanent Marker:** Once information is online, it is very difficult to take it down because others can copy and distribute it.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary terms **persistent** and **invisible audience**.

REVIEW with students the concept that all of the information about someone online makes up his or her digital footprint, and that this information can be searched, copied and passed on, and seen by a large, invisible audience, and that it can become persistent.

teach 2

Choose a Host (25 minutes)

ARRANGE students into groups of four and give each group one copy of the **Choose a Host Student Handout**.

EXPLAIN to students that “Trillion Dollar Footprint” is a popular TV show that tours the country looking for teens to compete in a talent show. Tell them you are hiring them to be producers for the show. Explain that their job is to:

- Look over online information of two fictional host applicants, Linda and Jason.
- Decide which applicant should be the host of the show based on who works better with others and is more honest.
- Role-play TV producers, giving a convincing pitch to the class about which candidate they chose and why.

HAVE students work together for 10 to 15 minutes to:

- **READ** the **Choose a Host Student Handout** directions.
- **REVIEW** the profiles for Linda and Jason.
- **FILL OUT** the feedback form.
- **DECIDE** on a candidate.

HAVE groups pitch for the candidate that they selected, using evidence from the profiles to support their decision. Refer to the **Choose a Host Student Handout – Teacher Version** for guidance.

ASK:

Do you think the show’s host should be Linda or Jason? Why?

Do you think the candidate will be honest?

Do you think the candidate will work well with others?

When all groups have made their pitch, explain to students that neither Jason nor Linda got the host position because the executive producer had too many concerns about both regarding their ability to work well with others and be honest. They are going to keep looking for other candidates.

ENCOURAGE students to examine what assumptions they made about each candidate.

ASK:

What did you think about the comment under Linda’s Instapic? Did it change your opinion of her?

Responses will vary. However, we don’t know if Vanilli92’s accusation was actually true.

What was your impression of Jason after you found out that he lied about singing in a band, his relationship status, and where he was born?

Some students may read into these inconsistencies more deeply than others. Is he really a liar? Maybe Jason forgot to change his relationship status on MyBook? Maybe his friend Maggie was mistaken? Some may argue that their opinion of Jason has more to do with his college wrestling steroid scandal than these MyBook discrepancies.

REFLECT on the importance of examining our assumptions when viewing information online. Also encourage students to think about how a digital footprint can be somewhat out of your control if others post information about you that is untrue or damaging. Then point out how it can be somewhat in your control because you can make decisions about what to post about yourself or what to send to others.

REVIEW with students that the decision of the executive producers not to select Linda or Jason based solely on information found online might seem unfair, but that these types of judgments can be a reality. Tell students that others might make judgments about them based only on what is contained in their digital footprints. Encourage students to take an active role in shaping their digital footprints to the extent they are able. However, remind students that information is not always under their control.

closing

Wrap-up (5 minutes)

You can use these questions to assess your students' understanding of the lesson objectives. You may want to ask students to reflect in writing on one of the questions, using a journal or an online blog/wiki.

ASK:

Who helped to shape Linda's and Jason's digital footprints?

Linda and Jason did, people who commented, news sources.

Can you tell what a person is really like offline based on what you find online?

To some degree. It depends on the size of their digital footprint and how accurate the information is.

What are some other types of information that make up your digital footprint?

Sample responses:

- The photos that I share
- Sports teams listings about me
- My Internet browser history
- My posts and messages on social network sites (even the ones I think are private)

Trillion Dollar Footprint

CHOOSE A HOST
TEACHER VERSION

Directions

Today you're all producers for "Trillion Dollar Footprint," a popular TV show that tours the country looking for teens to compete in a nationwide talent show. You're looking for a new host for the show. Based on personal statements from several applicants, you have narrowed the candidates to two: Linda and Jason.

The executive producer has hired a private investigator (PI) to dig up whatever he or she can about the candidates online. The PI has created a profile of both of the final candidates with the most important online documents he could find. He has passed along these profiles to you.

Based on these profiles, the executive producer wants you to choose which candidate should host the show. You should be very careful how you choose. Your candidate will be seen by millions of teens, so you should make sure that she or he, in particular: 1) works well with others, and 2) is honest.

Step 1:

Working in groups, look carefully through the profiles of both candidates.

Step 2:

Highlight the information you think is most important, given that you are looking for someone who **works well with others** and is **honest**.

Step 3:

Fill out the Feedback Form on the last page of this handout and reach an agreement as a group about who should be the host.

Step 4:

Be prepared to present your selection to the rest of the class, along with specific supporting evidence.

Linda's Profile

Document #: 1 of 4

Description: Personal Statement by Linda about why she should host TDF, picture included

Search Notes: Received in mail by TV Inc. on January 10, 2015.

January 10, 2015

Hey there, My name's Linda, I'm 21, and I'm a big fan of "Trillion Dollar Footprint." I watch the show every week (I can't believe you kicked off Kevin, btw), and my friends have been telling me for years that I should try to host, because, you see, I'm the best! In addition to being the sweetest girl you'll ever meet, I'm a talented cook and passionate about cooking (you should check out my food blog). I think it's important for the TDF host to have a talent so they can keep the audience entertained. In short, I'm funny, I'm cute and down to earth (see picture), and I'm going to blow your socks off as the new TDF host. Can't wait to hear from ya!



All the Best,

Linda Berliner

p.s.— Check out my blog at <http://www.onlinediary.com/lindacooks>


Document #: 2 of 4

Title: Linda's MyBook profile

Description: Publicly available profile info. Screenshot taken on January 10, 2015.

Search Notes: Found through a search on MyBook for "Linda Berliner" in the "New York, NY" network. Linda does not allow non-friends from this network to access her profile.

mybook

 **Linda Berliner**

[Timeline](#) [About](#) [Photos](#) [Friends](#) [More ▾](#)



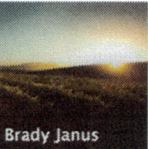

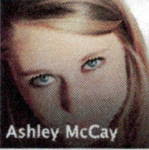


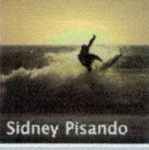

Do you know Linda?

To see what she shares with friends, [send her a friend request.](#)

About

★ Networks: [New York, NY](#)

Friends · 360 (0 Mutual)

 Shayla Cannan	 Lucinda Hong	 Brady Janus
 Vera Starr	 Ashley McCay	 Samantha Jane
 Adeline Banister	 Sidney Pisando	 Joe Urnich

Document #: 3 of 4

Title: Linda's Blog

Description: Two sample posts from Linda's blog, plus her "about me" page. Screenshots taken on January 10, 2015.

Search Notes: Blog URL included in Personal Statement.

Last Night's Dinner

Posted: on January 10, 2015



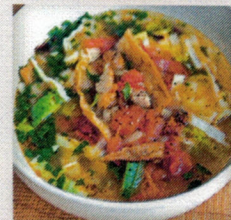
Shrimp tacos with pinto beans, rice, cilantro, avocado, and lime. Just toss fresh shrimp in lime juice, sprinkle with cumin, salt, and pepper, and grill for a minute or so on each side.

Tags: [shrimp](#), [avocado](#), [Mexican](#), [dinner](#), [recipes](#)

[No Comments] [leave a comment >>](#)

Follow me on Instapic!

@linda_berlinner_cooks



About Me

Hello World! My name's Linda and I'm 21 years old.

Over the years my friends have encouraged me to teach cooking classes for high school students and this blog is a place for me to put my go-to recipes for them. Enjoy!

Document #: 4 of 4

Title: Linda's Instapic

Description: An Instapic shared by Linda

Search Notes: Instapic handle (@linda_berlinner_cooks) found on her personal blog



Jason's Profile

Document #: 1 of 4

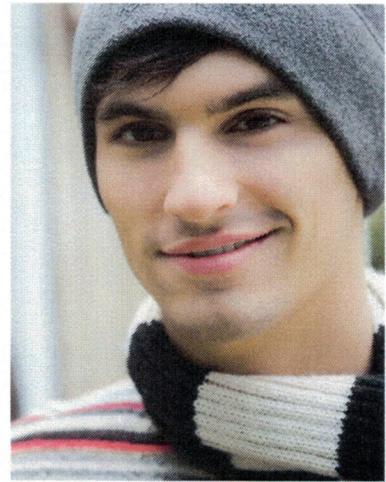
Description: Personal Statement by Jason about why he should host TDF, picture included.

Search Notes: Received in mail by Reality Inc. on January 10, 2015.

January 10, 2015

Hi there TV people,

My name's Jason, I'm 23, born and raised in Boston, MA (Best! City! Ever!), and I was *made* to be host of Trillion Dollar Footprint. As host, I'd love to show off my voice and inspire kids with a talent of my own. When I'm not out on the town with my friends or with my wife, I'm singing with my band or at home hanging out with my cat, Furmonster. Beyond that, I spend a lot of time online watching MeTube videos and stalking people on MyBook (just kidding). So, in conclusion, pick me! I am clearly the best choice.



Sincerely,

Jason Kramer

Document #: 2 of 4

Title: Newspaper Article

Description: Article from 2015 that references Jason's involvement with a college wrestling scandal at Hamford College in Boston.

Search Notes: Archived on the Boston Daily Press website, found via Google search.

Boston Daily Press

Four Hamford College Wrestlers Dismissed from Team Over Steroid Use

Monday, January 10, 2015 | <http://www.bostondailypress.com> | Local News

BOSTON – Four members of the Hamford Bulldogs wrestling team have been suspended for the rest of the season and asked not to return the following year after an anonymous source disclosed information about steroid use, says Head Coach Kevin Casmin.

The four students involved, freshmen Jeremy Dunlevy and Isaac Smith, and sophomores Jason Kramer and Marc Camphor, have written an open letter to the coach, in which they apologize to the team for their “inexcusable actions, which have affected our teammates and our college.” However, they go on to speak a “dire need for reform” about the vague rules regarding performance-enhancing drugs and dietary supplements.

— David Hortelheimer

Document #: 3 of 4

Title: Jason's MyBook profile

Description: Main page of Jason's MyBook profile. Screenshot taken on January 10, 2015.

Search Notes: Found by searching for "Jason Kramer" using an account in the "Boston, MA" network. Jason lets non-friends in this network access his profile, though not his pictures.

mybook Jason Kramer

FURMONSTER

Jason Kramer

Add Friend Message

Timeline About Photos Friends More

About

- ★ Networks: Boston, MA
- ♥ Relationship status: Single
- ➔ Twister @jfurmonster
- 🎓 Studied at Hamford College 2008 to 2011
- 🏠 Lives in Boston, Massachusetts
- 📍 From Malibu, California
- 🎂 Born June 16
- 🔍 Interests cooking, reading, exploring Boston and its surroundings, grilled cheese sandwiches
- 👤 Groups I can sing better than that guy on American Idol · Hamford Bulldogs Rah! Rah! · Wicked Good Bowlers

Post Photo

Write something...

Maggie Klumchuk ▸ Jason Kramer
April 16

Jason, baby, our lead singer just bailed and we need someone quick. I know you've given up singing, but want to help us out??

Like · Comment 1

Jason Kramer
April 3 near Boston, MA via mobile

Beautiful day! Anyone wanna get outside and do something fun? Hit me up!!

Like · Comment 9

Document #: 4 of 4

Title: Jason's Twister account

Description: Posts by Jason and from his friends. Screenshot taken on January 10, 2015.

Search Notes: Twister handle found on MyBook profile.

Twister profile for Jason Kramer (@jfurmonster). The profile includes a cover photo, a profile picture, and statistics: 55 TWISTS, 90 FOLLOWING, and 113 FOLLOWERS. A "Follow" button is present. Below the profile are four Twists:

- Jason Kramer @jfurmonster (30 Apr): I applied to be a host for the new show Trillion Dollar Footprint! Wish me luck!!
- Tommy Williams @twilliams (24 Apr): @jfurmonster awesome dude!!
- Maggie K @magz4ever (10 Apr): @jfurmonster Go Jason!
- Alex Ramos @ajramos47 (10 Apr): @jfurmonster Can I be on the show??

The left sidebar contains navigation links: Twists, Following, Followers, Favorites, Lists. Below these is a "Twist to Jason Kramer" search box with the handle @jfurmonster entered. A "Trends" section lists various hashtags and topics: #trilliondollarfootprint, #commonsense, #digitalcitizenship, #boston, #chooseahost, #realityinc, Hamford Bulldogs, social media, Schmidt Music School, steroid use.

Feedback Form

List pieces of evidence from the profiles that demonstrate whether or not each candidate works well with others and is honest.

	Linda Berliner	Jason Kramer
Works well with others	<i>Linda says she teaches cooking classes to high school students.</i>	<i>Jason is (or was) in a band. The posts and comments on his MyBook and Twister profiles make him seem outgoing and well-liked.</i>
Does not work well with others	<i>Linda doesn't seem too humble in her personal statement for Trillion Dollar Footprint.</i>	<i>Jason's suspension from his college wrestling team calls into question his integrity and good sportsmanship.</i>
Is honest	<i>Linda's blog and Instapic account demonstrate that she's truly passionate about food and cooking.</i>	<i>Jason didn't lie about everything in his personal statement. For example, he does seem to live in Boston, and he does have a cat named Furmonster.</i>
Is dishonest	<i>Linda may have lied about being a talented cook. Vanilliqz's comment makes it seem like Linda did not actually cook the dish in her Instapic.</i>	<i>Jason's personal statement doesn't match his MyBook profile. Is he actually married? Was he born in Malibu? Does he still sing for a band? Also, his college wrestling team's steroid scandal seems like a red flag.</i>

Final Choice: _____

Main Reasons for Choice:

- Students answers' will vary. After the activity is over, explain to students that neither Jason nor Linda got the host position because the executive producer had*
- too many concerns about both regarding their ability to work well with others*
- and be honest.*

Trillion Dollar Footprint

1. True or false: Your digital footprint is all the information about you online that only you post.

- a) True
- b) False

2. What kinds of information can make up a digital footprint?

- a) Online photos
- b) Comments that others post about you
- c) Both a and b

3. What kinds of information would make a **POSITIVE** digital footprint? Circle all that apply.

- a) Photos of you doing work in the community
- b) A newspaper article about your soccer team
- c) A mean comment that you made on a friend's website
- d) A blog you created to showcase your artwork
- e) Inappropriate photos of you on a social network site

Trillion Dollar Footprint

1. True or false: Your digital footprint is all the information about you online that only you post.

- a) True
- b) False**

Answer feedback

The correct answer is **b**, False. Your digital footprint also includes information about you that others post.

2. What kinds of information can make up a digital footprint?

- a) Online photos
- b) Comments that others post about you
- c) Both a and b**

Answer feedback

The correct answer is **c**. A digital footprint is any kind of information that is posted about someone. That can mean photos, comments, and more.

3. What kinds of information would make a POSITIVE digital footprint? Circle all that apply.

- a) Photos of you doing work in the community**
- b) A newspaper article about your soccer team**
- c) A mean comment that you made on a friend's website
- d) A blog you created to showcase your artwork**
- e) Inappropriate photos of you on a social network site

Answer feedback

The correct answers are **a**, **b**, and **d**. A positive digital footprint contains good things about you that you or others posted online.