



Digital Citizenship

Let's get started

Digital Citizenship is how we behave and interact with the online world. How we behave determines how others perceive us. The digital world is like the real world, which means we also have rights and responsibilities online.

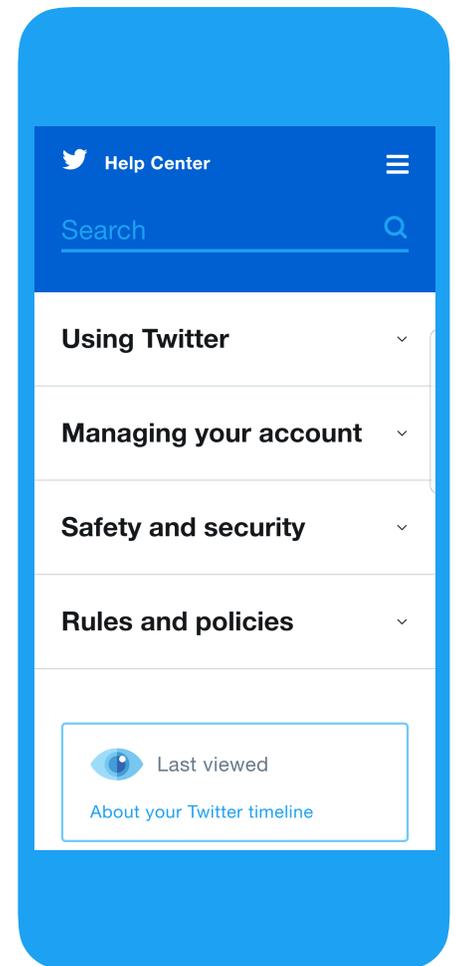
Be Safe

- **Don't** give out your password to anyone, except to a parent or trusted adult.
- **Don't** give out personal details such as your age, where you live or where you go to school.
- **Don't** share something online that does not belong to you without the owner's permission or proper credit.
- **Try not to** say anything online that might be hurtful to someone.
- **Always** remember that you don't know who might be behind another account
- **Always** remember to tell an adult if something happens online that upsets, scares or hurts you
- **Always** question the sources of things you read or see online.
- **Always** make sure your privacy settings are strong.

Nurture your Digital Footprint

The interactions you have and the things you share online shape your digital footprint. Your digital footprint is your online reputation. Here are a few things you can do to assess and alter your digital footprint:

- **Search yourself** - It's easy to get a sense of how others might perceive you online by doing a quick search of your name, username or email address. If you see something you don't want publicly visible, you may be able to remove it.
- **Privacy Settings** - On social media, you can usually choose your audience. With Twitter, for example, you can set your profile to 'protected'. This ensures that only approved followers can see what you share.
- **Deactivate or delete old profiles** - If you're no longer using an account, you might consider deactivating it to reflect your desired online presence and to ensure a high level of security.
- **Think before you post** - Before you say or do anything online, there are a few questions you should ask yourself. Would you be happy to have your friends and family see what you have said? Would you be happy for a newspaper to quote you? Is what you're saying going to hurt someone intentionally? What you say online can have real world effects.





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Media Literacy

With Twitter, you can fact-check and verify the accuracy of information in an instant. Below are some questions you should ask when reading something online. Often, these are questions we naturally ask when reading something we disagree with, but overlook when it confirms our biases. So, we should get in the habit of thinking about who, what, where, when, why, and how.

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

How?

Who: Who is the source? Who is writing the piece - are they a known journalist?

What: What did they say? What is the agenda? What type of story is it - news or opinion? Is it clickbait? Is the story intentionally false or a joke?

Where: Where did they say it? Is it a reputable source? Have you looked at the URL of the site? Where else is this story covered - is it reported elsewhere?

When: When did they say it? When was it published? It might be an old story. Is there a date on it?

Why: Why was the story published? Is it to drive traffic? Is it to prompt action? If so, for whom?

How: How is it written? Does it have excessive punctuation or capitalisation? Is there a clickbait headline? Does the story strike a conspiratorial tone?

Case Study

the ONION®

POLITICS SPORTS LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT OPI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Study: 58 Percent Of U.S. Exercise Televised

3/10/04 3:00pm

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WASHINGTON, DC—According to a new Department of Health and Human Services study, 58 percent of all exercise performed in the U.S. is broadcast on television. "Of the 3.5 billion push-ups performed in 2003, 2.03 billion took place on exercise shows on the Lifetime Network and ESPN3 or fitness

In 2004, a television journalist referenced this article from *The Onion* on her TV show. The story suggested that 58% of all exercise undertaken by normal citizens in the United States is televised. This would be a vast invasion of privacy... if it were true. The journalist hadn't looked closely at her source! *The Onion* is a satirical site that publishes fictional international, national and local news.

This example demonstrates that even the professionals can get it wrong sometimes. Always remember to ask yourself the key questions when you're reading something online: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

When the story is novel, humorous or something you agree with, you're more inclined to share without considering its authenticity. But these are the times when you need to be most alert.