

**Did you know that much of what you share online is permanent?**

Just like a fingerprint, your digital and online interactions are a unique reflection of you. Our behaviors leave a trail of information that can be tracked, saved, or shared, even when think we've deleted them.

**Have you ever thought about who is able to see what you have posted online?**

**Do you know how many people can view what you've posted online?**

**What about how long your post will last?**

Let's get an idea of how many people may actually see a post by calculating your digital footprint. Think about the latest thing you shared with a friend, via email or text, or posted on a website or social media platform. For example: a story, a photo, a link, or a comment.

Latest piece of information I shared digitally: \_\_\_\_\_ ("1" item)

• Multiply "1" by the number of friends you have online or as email/text contacts. \_\_\_\_\_

• Multiply that number by 300, or the number of friends your friends have. \_\_\_\_\_

• Multiply that number by 500, or the number of "friends of friends" your friends have.

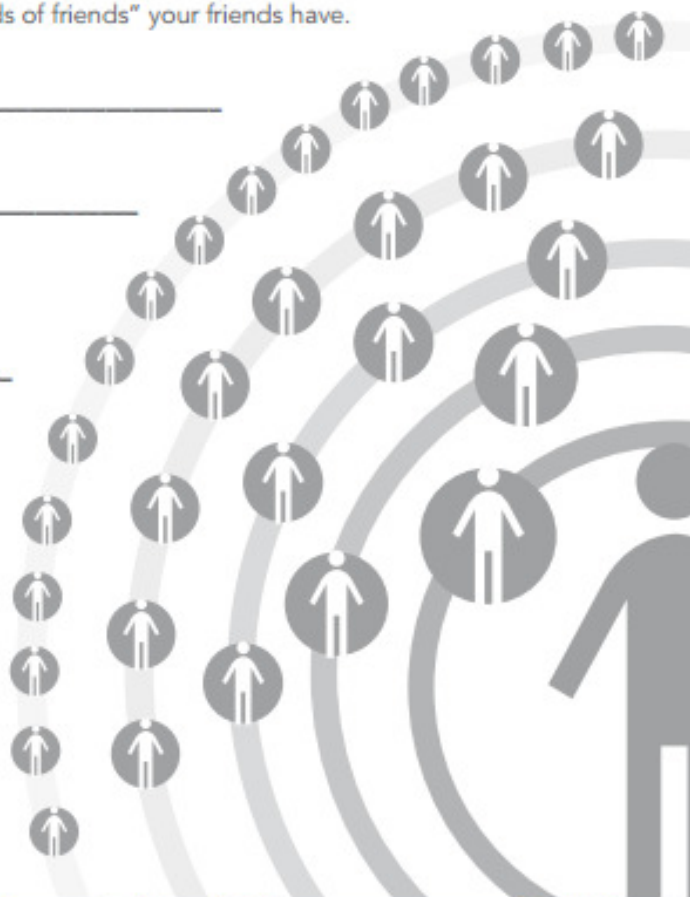
\_\_\_\_\_

• **What number are you up to?** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gets big quickly, doesn't it?**

• Now imagine multiplying that number by the number of people who live in your town, city or state. \_\_\_\_\_  
(and remember: they have "friends of friends," too!)

This is just the beginning of the number of people who could potentially see (or forward/share) what you've posted online. For example: It's how one funny video clip suddenly has millions of views on YouTube.

Imagine you tell your friend something personal. Would you want it 150,000 people to know about it?



# InCtrl of My Digital Footprint

teacher  
tool

Think about the mark you want to leave behind in the world. **What would you want a search of your name to reveal?** Your digital footprint may be your online reputation, but it impacts your offline world too. Friends, family, college admissions officers, law enforcement, future employers, and anyone who is interested in finding out about you can and will search for you online. So, be thoughtful about what you want to put out there – because once it's online, it could be there forever!

Use this graphic organizer to track what you learned about how you can stay InCtrl of your privacy and how you can create a positive digital footprint! When complete, choose 1 list to transform into an infographic and visually communicate and share what you learned with others.

WORDS TO KNOW: \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION I WANT TO/ SHOULD KEEP PRIVATE: \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION I WANT TO SHARE: \_\_\_\_\_

ONLINE SAFETY TIPS: \_\_\_\_\_

POWER PASSWORD TIPS! \_\_\_\_\_

MY PERSONAL DIGITAL GUIDELINES:  
For example: "Be respectful to other people"

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

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