

Digital Citizenship Lesson Plan
First Impressions

General Topic (as defined in the Digital Literacy Framework)	DF5
Digital Citizenship f) Self-Image and Identity	
Applicable Grade Range	
6-9	
Outcome(s) to be Addressed	
The student understands that presenting themselves in different ways online carries both benefits and risks.	
Importance / Significance of Lesson	
It is important for students to cultivate a positive image of themselves (or digital footprint) online and profile pictures play a large part in that image. What picture a person uses to represent themselves can say a lot about them. Students need to be careful about the image that they try to portray online and understand what a particular pose can say.	
Duration	
30-45 minutes	
Overview	
Students will look at a number of pictures and choose words and feelings that they feel describe them. The images will be sorted into two categories 'positive image' or 'negative image' and students will be able to describe why the images fit into either group. Students will then choose an image or pose that would best represent the image that they want to portray of themselves.	
Required Resources	
Computer hooked up to a projector Copies of the attached resources (if necessary)	

Lesson Plan and Extension Activities

Use the attached collection of pictures to lead a class discussion on positive and negative images. First, ask students to use words or feelings to describe each image. These can be recorded in a word document beside each picture or on the board under a print out of each picture. Write down all the student responses and ask students why they chose each word to describe the image.

Note the old saying ‘a picture tells a thousand words’. Highlight that often times when we choose a profile picture it says a lot about who we are, what we like or what kind of a person we are. Sometimes people make judgments about us based entirely on a single picture. Stress the importance of understanding what a picture or pose says about a person and how all profile pictures should be chosen carefully to maintain a positive image online. Note that some pictures can put us into danger (provocative poses, tough guy stances, poses with inappropriate content or intended to hurt others) or help us to attain adulation or praise (you made the team!, you’re so pretty!, who’s that cute guy?). Sometimes the responses to profile pictures can be genuine or false and reactions can be good or bad. Note too that threatening poses or pictures with weapons or of illegal actions should never be used. Choosing a profile picture is a huge responsibility. It should be something that you feel your parents, teachers, grandparents or anyone else you respect could look at and not think badly of you.

Pictures you choose should also be clear, close up, with not too much going on in the background, of your face and natural. It’s alright to highlight an outfit or place you really like, but it’s easier for people to know they have found the right person by seeing your face.

After looking at all the pictures as a class and discussing each in turn, make a t-chart on the board with the headings ‘positive image’ and ‘negative image’ and have the class sort each picture into one of the categories. Again- highlight the reasons why each image is placed where it is.

Have students work in small groups to come up with an appropriate pose to use for a profile pick and why it would work for them, or what image they are trying to portray. Students can perform a tableau of their 'profile pic' and then explain why they chose the pose. Class members can provide feedback as to whether or not they agree it is an appropriate and representative pose.

Adaptations

For younger students, images of objects would be used to maintain their safety or security online. For older students further discussion could be held around what a picture says about the person or what sorts of moods/attitudes can be conveyed in facial expressions and poses.

Additional Resources

Images included below

<http://www.slideshare.net/elsekramer/profile-pictures-dos-and-donts>

<http://socialmediasatisfied.com/social-media-profile-picture-dos-and-donts/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Collection-of-Awesome-profile-pics/129493223894423> (lots of great pics, look over it carefully prior to using to ensure all pics are age appropriate)

Cross-curricular Outcomes Also Addressed

Health and Career Prep – stereotyping, cyberbullying, self confidence

~developed by Kristin Sward, 2014



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Note: Please check all pictures prior to using them to ensure they are appropriate for your student's age and the intent of your lesson. Feel free to add to or delete any pictures to suit your purposes.

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