WHOSE PROFILE IS THIS ANYWAY?

COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION > 2.6 MANAGING DIGITAL IDENTITY

TARGET GROUP	AGE GROUP	PROFICIENCY LEVEL	FORMAT	COPYRIGHT	LANGUAGE
School drop outs, Students (primary school), Students (secondary school)	Children, Teenagers	Level 1	Activity sheet	Creative Commons (BY-SA)	English, French

In this workshop, participants will learn to identify ways information can be found online about people and will consider how judgments are made about a person when they post things online. This resource forms part of the "Cyber Heros" learning programme designed for 8 to 14 year olds.

General Objective	Skillset building
Preparation time for facilitator	less than 1 hour
Competence area	2 - Communication & collaboration
Time needed to complete activity (for learner)	0 - 1 hour
Support material needed for training	Social media accounts of family or celebrities, if age-appropriate - Printed-out browser history logs -Notebooks or devices for a short writing assignment
Resource originally created in	French

WORKSHOP DIRECTIONS

1 Let's talk

How we know what we (think we) know

There's a lot of personal information to be found on the Internet, some of which can cause us to think things or make guesses about people that turn out not to be true. These are the questions we're going to explore:

• What can we learn about a person from their personal information?
• What can we guess from personal information, even if we aren't sure?
• Do we know how this information was collected in the first place? How might we identify the source?

2 Activity

[**Download the worksheet**](#)

1. **Study the person**

If you decide to go with the collections on the worksheet, everyone gets a copy to read. If you go with collections gathered as a class, choose three people, put their info into lists like in the worksheet, and make sure everyone gets their own copy and reads it.

2. **Write a description**

Separate into groups, one character/person per group. Each group writes its own quick description of the person, answering the question: "Who do you think this person is?"

3. **Reveal the truth**

Okay, now here's the truth about our characters (remember to hold off reading these until each group's description is set):

• Nina is a high school senior. She's going to college next year, hopes to study chemical engineering, and eventually wants to start her own company. She cares most about: family, volunteering, pop

culture, fashion.

- Lea is part of the high school basketball team. She's 15 and lives in Brussels. She has an 8-year-old sister. She cares most about: baseball, studying art, playing the guitar, hanging with her friends.
- Ahmed is 14. He just joined the soccer team and has two cats. He's very good at sketching and likes to build robots on weekends. He cares most about: technology, his soccer team, animals and animal rights.

4. **Discuss**

Now, which of our guesses were correct, and which ones weren't? Why or why not? What did you learn from this activity?

3   **Takeaway**

When we see people's posts, comments, and photos, we make guesses about them that aren't always correct, especially if we don't know them.

That's because what we're seeing online is only part of who they are and what they care about. It could also be someone they're just pretending to be, or it's something they're feeling only in the moment they're posting it.

We can't really know who they are or how they really feel until we know them in person – and even then it takes time!