



Our Virtual Selves

OBJECTIVE

Students will create a digital citizen “passport” that reminds them how to be kind and responsible members of the digital world.

OVERARCHING QUESTION

How can we treat others well online?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

- More than **one-third of American students between the ages of 12 and 17** say they have been cyberbullied (or bullied over digital devices like cell phones, computers, or tablets).
- **Six out of 10** young people have seen bullying occur online.
- Only **1 out of 10 teens** tells a parent or another trusted adult when he or she is bullied.¹

Bullying is when one person is mean to another person again and again. Cyberbullying is when this happens online or through texts. If you are bullied or see bullying in any form, tell an adult you trust.

While these statistics apply to students older than those in elementary school, just over half of American children own smartphones by the time they turn 11.² For this reason, elementary school is an optimal time to begin learning about digital citizenship and how to treat others (and themselves) kindly online.

COLLABORATE AND BRAINSTORM

When you are a **citizen**, you are a member of a community. You are a member of your school, your town or city, your state, your country, and the world. With a partner, brainstorm: How can we be kind and responsible citizens?

If you use the Internet, you are also a **digital citizen** and a member of an online community. Watch this Common Sense [video](#) to better understand how your online actions can affect other people. Then brainstorm: How do I use the Internet? How could my actions online affect others? How can I be a kind and responsible digital citizen?

DESIGN AND CREATE

Follow these steps to create a Digital Citizen Passport, which will help remind you how to be a responsible citizen of the digital world:

Digital Citizen Passport Front Cover:

- **Photograph:** Every passport needs a picture! Sketch one of yourself.
- **Create a username:** A username is your online name. There are strangers on the Internet just like in real life, so it's important to never share your full real name. Combine your favorite thing(s) and your favorite number(s) to create a fun and original username.
- **Describe your online identity:** Think about what you like to do online and the devices you use to go online, then record this information on your passport.

Digital Citizen Passport Back Cover:

- **Promises:** Create a list of personal promises to help you act kindly and responsibly online.
- **Signature:** If you agree to the promises you created, sign your passport.

MAKE IT BETTER

To help you be the best digital citizen that you can be, cut out your Digital Citizen Passport covers. Then cut out lined paper to fit between the covers and staple everything together like a book. You can now use these blank pages to help you with your digital citizenship, whether you record your usernames or favorite websites, add to your digital citizen promises, or journal about your online experiences!

KEEP IT GOING

Keep your Digital Citizen Passport in a place where you can access it easily. Refer to it often—especially when you or others need a reminder of how to act kindly and responsibly online.

K-2 CONSIDERATIONS

Provide students with examples of usernames that protect their private information before encouraging students to work in pairs to create their own. Your class can then regroup and brainstorm important Digital Citizen promises together, and students can select their favorites to add to their passports.

STANDARDS

ISTE Standards for Students

Digital Citizen

- Students recognize the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act in and model ways that are safe, legal, and ethical.
- 2a: Students cultivate and manage their digital identities and reputations and are aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world.

Sources

1. "11 Facts About CyberBullying." DoSomething.org. dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-cyber-bullying.
2. "It's A Smartphone Life: More Than Half Of U.S. Children Now Have One." NPR. npr.org/2019/10/31/774838891/its-a-smartphone-life-more-than-half-of-u-s-children-now-have-one.

DIGITAL CITIZEN PASSPORT



Username:

Favorite Online Activities:

Devices I use to access the Internet:

DIGITAL CITIZEN PASSPORT



As a digital citizen, I promise to...

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-
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- Tell _____ (an adult) if I see bullying or anything else that makes me feel uncomfortable.

Signed: _____