Opening Digital World's Doors to # Next Digital Generations

LESSON PLAN 4 – MEDIA ANALYSIS

TARGET

Students pair up and compare pretend secrets to start thinking about zones of privacy.

EDUCATION METHODS

1.Discussion

OBJECTIVES

✓ **Understand** what kinds of personal information should be kept private and why.

✓ **Remember** that everyone deserves to have their privacy decisions respected.

MATERIALS NEEDED

No materials needed

VERIFICATION

Secrets are just one type of personal information that we keep private online—or share only with trusted family or friends. Once you've shared a secret, you're no longer in control of where it can go. That's why people say we should always think before we post (they're right!). Other kinds of information you should never post online:
• Your home address and phone number
• Your email
• Your passwords
• Your full name
• Your grades and schoolwork

FLOW OF LESSON

Why does privacy matter?

The Internet makes it so easy to communicate with family, friends—everybody. We send messages, share photos, join chats and livestream—sometimes without thinking about who can see them, either right then or at a completely different time. A picture or post you think is funny and harmless could be misunderstood by people you never thought would see it—now or way off in the future. Feelings could get hurt. Someone who doesn't get the joke could think you're mean just because they don't know you. Once somethings out there, it's hard to take it back, and people can copy, screenshot it and share it. Remember:

• What you post or share could be seen by people you'll never meet.
• Once something about you is online, it could be there forever—even if someone else just takes a screenshot and shares it. It's kind of like a permanent marker: the marks it makes are really hard to erase.
• All put together, lots of bits of information that are public and hard to erase are what make up a reputation—what people think of you. So you want to have as much control as possible over what you share.

That's why your privacy matters. You can protect it by posting it privately or sharing only things that you're totally sure you want to share—in other words, by being careful about what you say, post and share online.

It's also good to know when to post nothing at all—not to react to somebody's post, photo or comment, share something that might not be true (even if it's just a joke), overshare (share too much) or post personal information. Everybody's heard "think before you post," and that's because it's really good advice. The way to respect your own and other people's privacy is to think about what's ok to post, who might see what you post, what effect it could have on you and other people and when not to post anything at all.

Some questions for further discussion (these questions can also go home with students for follow up family discussions):

• Why should we never post our full name, address, phone number and other personal info online?
• When is it ok to share a photo or video of someone else?
• Is it ever ok to tell someone else's secret or private information—why/why not? What if you think it's a joke?
• What if someone you care about is posting something private that makes you think they're in danger—would you share it? If you think so, should you tell them you're worried? Should you tell them you're thinking about telling an adult who cares about them?

WRAPPING IT UP

1. Make up a secret
Make sure it's a **pretend** secret **not** a real one.

2. Tell your partner
Okay, got your secrets? Now let's all pair up, share your secret with your partner, and discuss these three questions:
• Would you share this secret with anyone?
• Who would you share your secret with and why?
• How would you feel if someone told everyone your secret without your permission?

3. Tell the class
Finally, each student tells the class their pretend secret and how they felt about sharing it. The class can discuss their answers to the questions just above.