



12-14
years old

Data and
Privacy

The Effects of Online Actions

PRIVACY MATTERS

In a world where everyone is connected and anything created electronically can be copied, pasted and sent to thousands in a heartbeat, privacy today means more than simply guarding personal or private information. Each time kids fill out a profile, comment on something published, post a video or text a picture of themselves to friends, they potentially reveal themselves to the world.

POSITIVE WAYS TO SHARE

This culture of sharing holds tremendous promise for young people to communicate, collaborate, express themselves and find support for their ideas and interests from ever-growing audiences. Examples include:

- ▶ An aspiring 12-year-old songwriter sees her YouTube video rise to the top of the daily most-viewed list.
- ▶ A 14-year-old boy weathers a move across the country by using Facebook to keep in touch with old friends and connect with new ones.
- ▶ Two 6th grade classes – one in Japan and the other in the U.S. – share and collaborate on producing a video on global warming, and in the process learn more about negotiating differences than their teachers could ever have imagined.

BROADCASTING PRIVATE DATA: THE LASTING EFFECTS

Our culture of sharing and the ease of online disclosure pose real risks for young people. A teen's private thoughts can be shared with countless strangers, secrets can become headlines and false information can spread fast and furiously.

Actions conducted online create digital footprints that migrate and endure. Something that happens in the spur of the moment – a funny picture, a certain post – can resurface years later. And if kids aren't careful, their reputations can be damaged. Texts and posts can cause unintended hurt or damage to others. Something originally sent to a friend can then be sent to a friend's friend, who can send it to their friends' friends, and so on.

Talk to your kids about the pros and cons of sharing online – now more than ever.

