Social Media Tip Sheet
You posted WHAT?
A look at how teens and adults can use social media responsibly

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Social Media

"an aspect of the internet which allows individuals and groups to create and publish online content, share the content and interact about it" (Lusk 2010, p. 3).

According to a 2012 report by Common Sense Media:

- 90 percent of teens use Social Media;

- 51 percent of teens log onto a social media site everyday; and

- 68 percent of teens say Facebook is their main social media site.

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

The Federal Trade Commission's act protects children under the age of 13. It is actually against most social media sites' terms of service to create a profile if you are under the age of 13. The Act requires parent permission before a site can collect or share information and gives parents permission to review the information collected about their child. Parents can also retract permissions and have information deleted (OnGuard.gov, 2012).

Do you know everyone who can see your account?

According to a CNN Article August 2012, 83.09 million Facebook accounts are fake. Do you know everyone who has access to your social media accounts? Additionally scholarship committees, employers and college admissions are searching applicants' social media accounts prior to making decisions.

- Think about the possible outcomes of someone you don't know or someone in a position of authority seeing the information you post online:

  - Could your posts impact your chances of receiving a scholarship, job offer, college admissions?

    - What do all the pictures and posts you are tagged in say about you?

  - Could your posts impact your safety?

    - Turn off all GPS and location tagging. If someone needs to know where you are, tell them yourself or add the location after the fact.

    - Don't post when you will be away from home; post about your trip after the fact. Don't make it easy on someone to break into your home.

Recommended Facebook Settings

- Adjust your privacy settings at: https://www.facebook.com/settings/?tab=privacy.
- Always use your correct age, but only display your birth month and day, not the year.
  - Facebook has safeguards in place for individuals under 18 and it is against the terms of service to lie about your age.
  - It is also against the terms of service to have an account if you are under the age of 13.
- Change all your privacy settings to "Friends" only.
  - The default setting if you are under 18 is "Friends of Friends." For over 18 it is "Public."
    - You don't know who all your friends' friends are; think about what you are letting them see!
- Turn ON the feature that requires you to review posts your friends tag you in.
  - This allows you to determine if the content is appropriate for you to have visible on your page. By turning ON this feature, you are able to review any status updates or pictures before they are published to your profile with your name linked to them.

Recommended Twitter Settings

- All settings are under account: https://twitter.com/settings/account
  - Turn off Tweet Location GPS tagging
  - Protect your tweets.
    - If unprotected, anyone with internet access may view your posts and information.
    - If protected, only people who you approve to follow you can see your profile and posts.
    - Always be mindful of who you approve to follow your account.

Useful Links

- Facebook Terms and Policies: https://www.facebook.com/policies
- Facebook Safety Center: https://www.facebook.com/safety
  - Provides sections for educators, parents, teens, law enforcement along with tools and resources.
- Twitter Privacy Policy: https://twitter.com/privacy
- Twitter Help Center: https://support.twitter.com/
  - To view their safety center with tips for parents, teens and educators click on Report Abuse or Policy Violations
- OnGuardOnline.gov: http://onguardonline.gov/
  - Government website with information on how to stay safe, secure and responsible online.