GRADE 8:  SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL FOOTPRINTS: OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Video Discussion

What You'll Need:  • Video  • Student Handout  • Student Handout (Spanish)

Activity Steps

1. **Introduce** the video topic to students by saying: *Today we're going to watch a video exploring how using social media affects our digital footprint.*

2. **Show** the video *Teen Voices: Oversharing and Your Digital Footprint* (3:19 minutes). (Note: Use the video video player to turn on subtitles in Spanish.)

3. **Lead** a class discussion exploring the questions below.

**Distance learning option:** Have students watch the video and complete the handout. If there's time, have students share their responses during a video meeting.

Discussion Questions

1. **What are some of the benefits of sharing on social media?**
   Sample responses:
   - Communication: It's a way to stay in touch and stay connected to friends and family.
   - Expression: You can post your personal opinions and ideas about important topics.
   - Entertainment: It's fun to share things you're interested in.
   - Future: It's an opportunity to present a curated version of yourself for the public or for colleges and employers.

2. **What are some of the drawbacks of social media use that the teens brought up in the video?**
   Sample responses:
   - Oversharing: When people share something they later regret.
   - Permanence: Embarrassing or regrettable posts, including those that "disappear" (Snaps, Stories, etc.), become part of your permanent digital footprint, which might have a negative impact. (Define "digital footprint" as all the information online about a person posted either by that person or others, intentionally or unintentionally.)
   - Social pressure: When everyone else is posting, you feel pressure to participate.
   - Life balance: Managing multiple platforms and accounts requires a lot of time.

3. **What was one perspective shared in the video that you agreed with? Why?**
   - Answers will vary.