

3.1.

Acting, reacting, interacting...

"The notion of looking on at life has always been hateful to me. What am I if I am not a participant? In order to be, I must participate." Antoine de Saint-Exupery (Author of 'The Little Prince')

Participation

Engagement and the act of sharing in the activities of a group.¹³

How do YOU participate in the "activities of a group"?



Do people communicate in the same way through all of these different media channels?

I use SMS every day to send short messages to people in my contact list. A little message like this makes people happy, and it's useful to inform people when you are late, for example.

Joanna

Floran

I use Twitter because when you make status updates on Facebook your timeline gets too full. Twitter is less personal than instant messaging and I use it with people I don't want to give my phone number to.

¹³ WordNet Search (2012), 'Participation' (online) <http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=participation>, consulted on 10/09/2012.

➡ Look at the activities below: Draw one or more of the icons from the previous page to show the service(s) you would use in each of these situations.

1. Contacting a company where you wish to take part in a work experience scheme.

2. Letting your friends know you are back home after some time away.

3. Trying to make up with a person you have had an argument with.

4. Sharing photos of a trip you made over the summer.

5. Having private discussions with close friends.

6. Contributing to online discussions on a subject you are passionate about.

7. Complaining to a shop about a bad experience you have had with an item you purchased.

8. Discussing a confidential matter with an online counselling service.

9. Keeping up to date with family who live some distance away.

Now go back to each situation. Write **'f2f'** next to the situations you think would be better with face-to-face interaction.



Why would face-to-face interaction be better?

Write in the space below 5 ways in which face-to-face and online interaction differ. The first example is given.

1 When you are interacting with a lot of people, they can't all speak at once in a f2f situation but they can all make a comment at the same time when you are online e.g. in a blog or forum.

2

3

4

5

Even when you have chosen your communication channel carefully, messages are still open to misinterpretation!

You should be so careful about what you're posting on Facebook as people are checking you; you can't actually say what you want, and all the things you say may be interpreted in the wrong way...



Charlotte

Because you cannot see the facial expressions or body language of the person you are communicating with online (except when you are using a webcam), the smiley was invented. We are all familiar with symbols such as ☺ ("happy") and ☹ ("sad") but these are not used all over the world. Can you decipher the Japanese emoticons below?

(^_^)

(T_T)

(o.o)

(^_-)

m(_ _)m

(*^.*^*)

\(^_^)/

(>_<)>

(^o^)

d(^_^)b

Now go to www.webwewant.eu to discover more emoticons, and look at the bottom of the next page to see what these Japanese emoticons really mean.

➡ Smileys and emoticons can help make your messages clear online. Now think carefully about how you make yourself clear offline. What “tools” (e.g. body language/intonation etc.) can you use to show the following in the real world?

Friendliness/pleasure

Humour

Friendly teasing

Annoyance/irritation

▶ Have you been in an online or offline situation where your message was misinterpreted? Describe the situation and how you solved it.

▶ Can you create 5 tips that will help to avoid miscommunication online? Send your tips to www.webwewant.eu

1
2
3
4
5

Answers: happy, sad (crying), surprised, wink, apologizing (bowing), shy, hurry (arms in the air), troubled, singing or laughing out loud, listening to music - I have my headphones on.

3.2.

Being yourself online

Values

Principles or standards of behaviour; one's judgement of what is important in life.¹⁴

What are your online values?
Do you act differently online than offline?

Lisa

I definitely say things on Facebook
I wouldn't say to someone's face -
it's much easier to be more direct
online and I suppose it could upset
people sometimes.

DID YOU
KNOW?

According to a recent
survey conducted by Childnet
International, 45% of young people
say that they don't act differently
online.¹⁵

Manon

➔ What are your online and offline values? Choose words from the word bank below to describe your personality and your values. Which you is the "real you" offline or online? Write the adjectives that describe you best into the "online" or "offline" circle, or into the overlapping space if the word describes you both online and offline. You can add adjectives of your own if you wish.

Online

Offline

Adaptable Assertive Conscientious
Courageous Creative Cruel Cynical
Defensive Dishonest Easily-led Extravert
Honest Impulsive Introverted Irritable
Loyal Moody Narcissistic Negative
Nervous Nonconformist Nurturing
Obedient Open-minded Optimistic
Paranoid Perfectionist Pessimistic
Positive Rebellious Risk-taker Sarcastic
Self-controlled Selfish Sensitive Serious
Sincere Sociable Timid Tolerant

¹⁴ Oxford Dictionaries (2012), 'Value' (online), <http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/value>, consulted on 8/11/2012.

¹⁵ For more information, please consult: <http://www.youthigproject.com/2012baku.html>.



In which environment, offline or online, do you think it is easier to “be yourself”?

Online ☐ Offline ☐ Both ☐ Neither ☐

➔ **Bringing your offline values to the online environment can be challenging.** Let’s look at some examples where judgement and positive principles are often forgotten on the internet. Can you write a definition for each of these terms? If you look them up, don’t forget to indicate your references.

Trolling:

Bullying:

Teasing:

Sexting:

Fraping:

➔ **The darker sides of the internet.** Look at the situations described below. Can you define what the root of the problem is? Describe a solution to the problem.



Jari

What I say online should be private, but not in this school, everything you type online, everything you look at can be seen.

The problem is:

The solution is:

The problem is:

The solution is:

I sent this message, just for a laugh, but it went wrong big time - she went crying to her parents, they complained to the school and I was in loads of trouble - I can't believe she couldn't see I was only messing around.



Nathan

The problem is:

The solution is:

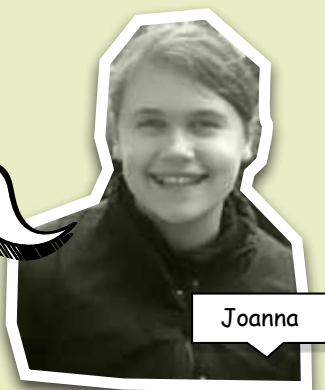


Judith

It's so unfair, I sent that picture to him and it was supposed to be private, no one else was meant to see it. I trusted him and now I feel so stupid. Everyone is telling me that there is nothing I can do about it now, that I'll never get it back - everyone is laughing at me, I don't know how I could've been so stupid.

The worse thing that ever happened to me on the internet!

I was on Facebook and wrote a short message on the page of a friend. There was a bug and the message was sent several times. The next day when I went back to my profile I realised that the message had kept being sent to her! There was more than a page with the one same message repeated an incredible number of times!



Joanna

➡ **Step 1:** In the left-hand column, describe the worst thing that happened to you and the outcome of the incident. Break the incident into 5 clear steps.

1 I...	
2 Then ...	
3	
4	
5	

➡ **Step 2:** Changing the course of events. At what point could you have changed the course of events to reach a positive outcome? Use the boxes on the right to show how things could have worked out differently.

3.3. Participating proactively... and responsibly!

Proactive

Creating or controlling a situation rather than just responding to it after it has happened.¹⁶

Staying in control online is important.



Are you in control of the content you create and consume as well as the relationships you participate in? When you participate online you may develop friendships with people you **only** know online.

What are your thoughts about the following questions?

Q1 When does an online acquaintance become a friend?

Q2 Are all online-only relationships risky?

Q3 Should anyone under the age of 18 be allowed to arrange to meet up with an online friend?

Q4 What are the pros of being able to talk about personal things with online friends? Are there any cons?



Remember, you should never physically meet up with an online friend without letting a trusted adult (e.g. parent, carer...) know about it beforehand.

Being proactive!

Look at the table below. Tick the actions you think should facilitate a safer physical meeting with a friend you have only previously met online.

<input type="checkbox"/>	You arrange to meet in a busy public place and stay there the whole time i.e. no impromptu walks in the park/going to each other's homes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	You have had contact with your online friend for an extended period of time and know a lot about him/her.
<input type="checkbox"/>	You have exchanged phone numbers and IM details.
<input type="checkbox"/>	You have spoken to your parents/carers about the meeting and have taken their advice about safely meeting up.

¹⁶ Oxford Dictionaries (2012), 'proactive' (online), <http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/proactive>, consulted on 8/11/2012.

<input type="checkbox"/>	The online friend is also in contact with your real-world friends.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charge your mobile phone and make sure there is credit on it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	You have done an internet search to explore your online friend's profiles; you know the sort of things s/he says and the people s/he shares things with.
<input type="checkbox"/>	You have spoken to your friends about the meeting and you are all going to meet the online friend together.
<input type="checkbox"/>	You have been on webcam with your online friend and you feel you can trust him/her.
<input type="checkbox"/>	You know that you will not allow yourself to have discussions of any sort that will make you feel uncomfortable with the online friend.
<input type="checkbox"/>	You have arranged for a parent/carer/friend to call you part way through the meeting to check that all is going well and/or to provide an excuse for you to leave if you feel uncomfortable during the meeting.



Ioanna

The worst incident that happened to me online? Chatting with a person and finally realizing he was not his real self.

➡ **Now think about this:** If there was no information about you on the internet, what impression do you think people would have of you?

Keep control! There are many tools you can use to stay in control of your online relationships. But what about staying in control of the content you...or your friends... create online?

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Can you imagine a scenario where something you did online when you were younger might limit your opportunities in the future?

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DID YOU KNOW?

In 2006, Vancouver-based psychotherapist Andrew Feldmar was crossing the Canada-US border to pick up a friend from Seattle airport - something he'd done many times before.

This time, though, the border guard searched online and found that in 2001 Feldmar had written in an academic journal that he had taken LSD in the 1960s. As a result, Feldmar was barred entry to the US. "This case shows that because of digital technology, society's ability to forget has become suspended, replaced by perfect memory."¹⁷

➡ Imagine you are a successful 24 year-old website designer. It is important for you to have a positive online reputation and to show you are very active online. Analyse the pieces of digital information below. If you could have set a digital expiry date, i.e. a time for the information to be deleted, would you have? If so, what year would you have set it for?

Photos your friends upload of you this year	A blog entry you posted when you were 10	Comments you made on friends' social networking pages
Answers you gave on an anonymous question site	Pictures you upload to twitter of you, your family and friends	A website you made when you were 15
A blog that you add posts to every other day	Information posted on your timeline from apps you use	Information held on social networks you no longer use

¹⁷ Jeffries, S. (2011), 'Why we must remember to delete – and forget – in the digital age (online) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2011/jun/30/remember-delete-forget-digital-age>, consulted on 8/11/2012.