

Virtual Life Calculating Scores

To score your results, you will need to use blue, yellow, and red ink. You can use markers or your ipads to keep track of the colors.

Online Profiles

Question 1

Tell students to proceed as follows:

- if you answered "b," "d," or "e," give yourself a **blue** rating
- if you answered "c," give yourself a **yellow** rating
- if you answered "a," give yourself a **red** rating

Note: If you had a number of answers that included "a," give yourself a red rating for this question, even though the other choices have different color ratings.

Question 2

Tell students to proceed as follows:

- if you answered "a," or "c," give yourself a **red** rating
- if you answered "b," give yourself a **blue** rating

Question 3

Tell students to proceed as follows:

- if you answered "a," give yourself a **blue** rating
- if you answered "b," give yourself a **yellow** rating
- if you answered "c," "d," or "e," give yourself a **red** rating

Question 4

Tell students to proceed as follows:

- if you answered "a," give yourself a **yellow** rating
- if you answered "b," give yourself a **red** rating
- if you answered "c," give yourself a **blue** rating

Question 5

Tell students to proceed as follows:

- if you answered "a," give yourself a **blue** rating
- if you answered "b," give yourself a **red** rating

If you are **mostly blue**, give yourself a pat on the back. You are careful about what you post online and that's a good thing. You are not very vulnerable to being cyberbullied or harassed because the footprints you leave online are either not easily traced back to you or are directed only toward a limited group of people who you trust wholeheartedly. You understand that information and images that you post online may be seen or downloaded and passed on by others, so you post only general images in your profile.

If you are **mostly yellow**, you are fairly cautious about your online profile. You do include some information and images of yourself or your friends, but you try to limit the

number of people who can access such data.

You understand that information and images that you post online may be seen or downloaded and passed on by others, so you make sure to ask permission before posting images of your friends, and you make sure that nothing you do post would embarrass or hurt you or anyone else.

If you are **mostly red**, you may be setting yourself up for a lot of problems. You need to be more careful with the access to your personal life and that of your friends that you provide to others through your online profile. The rule of thumb on the Internet is that if you wouldn't want your "virtual conscience" or, for that matter, a teacher or a parent to see what you are posting online then the "world wide" Web may not be the best place to post it.

Communication Characteristics

Question 1

Tell students to proceed as follows:

- if you answered "a," give yourself a **yellow** rating
- if you answered "b," give yourself a **blue** rating

Question 2

Tell students to proceed as follows:

- if you answered "a," give yourself a **red** rating
- if you answered "b," give yourself a **blue** rating

Question 3

Tell students to proceed as follows:

- if you answered "a," give yourself a **red** rating
- if you answered "b," give yourself a **blue** rating

Question 4

Tell students to proceed as follows:

- if you answered "a," give yourself a **blue** rating
- if you answered "b," give yourself a **red** rating

If you are mostly **blue**, you are respectful and ethical in your online communications. You communicate *with* others, not *at* others. You don't behave aggressively or in an intentionally mean way when you are chatting, e-mailing or instant messaging.

If you are mostly **red**, you may need to rethink how you communicate with others online. there's an old saying, "What goes around comes around," and, on the Internet, behaviour or activities that you might not be proud of can be spread far and wide very quickly, and can stick around in cyberspace and come back to haunt you for a long, long time. The Internet may appear to be a virtual place, but it is also a community and, just like communities in your town, it's important to be a good citizen and to build up your reputation.

Passwords

This section shows how well students manage their passwords in their virtual lives. The answers are pretty straightforward: they will have colored themselves **red** if they share their password(s) with others, and **blue** if they don't. (And they will have given themselves an extra **blue** if they use passwords that are not related to things that can be easily traced to them, such as birthdays, pets' names, favorite bands, etc.)

If you scored **blue**, you are password-savvy. You don't share passwords, even with friends, and you don't make up passwords that anyone who knows you could easily guess.

If you scored **red**: watch out! There are a lot of people out there who have had their identities stolen and/or misused as a result of sharing their password(s) with too many people.

Lifespan of Data

All these answers score **red**! This is something of a trick question since, contrary to what many people think, there is no such thing as temporary data on the Internet. Even something we consider to be "temporary," like an instant message, can stay buried in the depths of the computer(s) that sent and/or received the message.

In addition, that edgy image sent to a friend or posted on a site can be downloaded and distributed to thousands of people in the blink of an eye. In fact, it's not uncommon for universities, colleges and prospective employers to check out what people have posted on sites like *Facebook*, to see whether or not they are desirable candidates for programs or positions.

And now ask students the bonus question.

Are We Ever Truly Anonymous When We Are Online?

Give students this example. Let's say you are true **blue**. You do everything right: you're careful with what you post about yourself, you are considerate in how you communicate with others, and you protect your privacy when you are on other Web sites.

Are you still anonymous? How do you know? (*Give students an opportunity to discuss and debate this.*)

Is yes the correct answer? Not really