Introduction[2]
Privacy in the Digital Age

Objective
Privacy consists of many interrelated ideas, behaviors, and concerns about why and how to draw personal boundaries in different spheres of life. Students will examine and develop their own understanding of privacy and explore how this understanding impacts their own activities, routines, and identities. What information do they want to share? Why does privacy matter?
- SWBAT (students will be able to) explain that privacy allows us to make personal decisions–based on our own preferences–that we might not want others to know about.

Materials
Handouts: Privacy Game

Timeline: 15 minutes
- Privacy Game: 15 min

> ## "Privacy is a personal decision."

Privacy Game [15 min]
Distribute "Privacy Game" handout
- **ASK** students to walk around the room - with their handouts - and introduce themselves to each other, as their character. In every conversation, they must share at least three of their answers.
  - Were there any facts which you did not share with anyone? Which ones? Why?
  - Did everyone make the same decisions about what to share? Why/why not?
  - Depending on who you share with, why might you share more, or less, of this kind of information? When would you share it?
  - Is this kind of information public? Private? Why? Is this the same for everyone?
- **EXPLAIN** that there isn't a single correct way of understanding privacy because everyone makes different personal decisions. If we're more aware of what we value as private, and how our behaviors online can impact our privacy, we'll be better prepared to make informed choices about what kind of privacy we want.
- **ASK**
  - How would you define privacy? Why?
    - *(Students should reflect on their own understanding of privacy. Answers will vary.)*
  - Is all private information also a secret?
    - *(Privacy is relative – there are some things that your friends know that you don't want everything to know, even things that aren't a secret. Your pet's name is not a secret, but you may be weirded out if a stranger learned it. Sometimes private information is also used to recover passwords, so if a stranger knows your pet's name–or you post lots of pictures of your dog online– someone might be able to use a website's password recovery tool to change your password and lock you out of that website. Privacy involves an ability to control the flow of your personal information.)*

  - Are there some things that aren't necessarily secrets that you might still want to keep private from

strangers or people you've just met?
  • *(Phone numbers, emails, pictures, Social Security numbers, etc.)*
  • Are there some things you might keep from your parents or your friends?

Extensions/Additional Resources
  • Ask students to search for their names – or their friends' names – online, and see how much information they can find.

Privacy Game
Handout

Pretend to be someone else. You can be an actor, a character from a book or TV show, or just someone you make up. Write down the following things, as your character:

- Name
- Age
- School/work
- Favorite movie
- Secret crush (if you don't know, make one up!)

15