Matching Game

Profiles: Who are you talking to?

For Grades 3-5

Objective

Students match photos to online profiles and engage in a discussion on misrepresentation online.

Required Materials

Handout of profiles
Projector to display photographs

Instructions

Distribute copies of the handout.

Let students know that each screen name or profile belongs to one of the individuals you are going to show them.

Students should match each screen name or profile to the photo they think represents the user.

Once students have completed the activity, go over the answers with the students and discuss who students are talking to online and how to protect themselves.

Discussion

How many of you chat online with your friends? What do you use to chat? (Instant messaging, Skype, videochat, Facebook?) Do you ever talk online with someone you haven't met in real life?

Is there a way to check to see if they are who they say they are?

How can you determine if they are telling the truth?

How useful are screen names in determining information about who you are talking to? What about profiles?

There is a perceived anonymity online, and individuals can create false profiles and pretend to be someone they are not. Users can misrepresent themselves and lie about their age, gender, personality, location, and anything else they want.

When chatting with strangers online, know that they are still strangers. There is no way to verify their identity. You could be talking to anyone. If someone you do not know contacts you, talk with your parents before chatting with the stranger online. If anyone says anything that makes you feel uncomfortable or scared online, stop talking to him or her and tell an adult.

What do you do when a stranger walks up to you and starts talking with you on the street? Handle strangers online with that same caution – if you wouldn't talk to them in real life, why talk to them online?

Profiles: Who are you talking to?

Below are descriptions of individuals from their online profiles. Can you match the user to their photo?

1. 13-year-old female, loves Hannah Montana, wants to be a gymnast
2. 22-year-old female, loves dancing at clubs, house parties
3. 18-year-old female, freshman in college, member of a sorority
4. 14-year-old male, soccer player, loves playing games of pick-up soccer at Grant Park
5. 23-year-old male, employee at Anderson Realty Group, looking to connect with other employees
6. 36-year-old female, mother looking for playmates for her young daughter
7. 16-year-old male, sophomore at Central High School, recently moved to city looking to meet new friends at school
8. 55-year-old male, investment banker, looking to find old friends from high school/college
9. 16-year-old female, sophomore in high school, loves shopping with friends, taking pictures of friends
10. 14-year-old male, loves rap music, dancing at parties, talking to girls, wearing bandannas

Instructor's answer key

1. 13-year-old female, loves Hannah Montana, wants to be a gymnast (accurate)
   ANSWER: J

2. 22-year-old female, loves dancing at clubs, house parties (14-year-old female, student body representative and honor club member)
   ANSWER: H

3. 18-year-old female, freshman in college, member of a sorority (accurate profile)
   ANSWER: L

4. 14-year-old male, soccer player, loves playing games of pick-up soccer at Grant Park (32-year-old male, soccer coach for recreational team, divorced)
   ANSWER: A

5. 23-year-old male, employee at Anderson Realty Group, looking to connect with other employees (55-year-old male, employee at Anderson Realty Group)
   ANSWER: C

6. 38-year-old female, mother looking for playmates for her young daughter (38-year-old male, was convicted and sent to jail for hurting a child)
   ANSWER: F

7. 16-year-old male, sophomore at Central High School, recently moved to city looking to meet new friends at school (Dean of Students at Central High School, looking for misbehaving Central High School students)
   ANSWER: K

8. 55-year-old male, investment banker, looking to find old friends from high school/college (accurate profile)
   ANSWER: B

9. 16-year-old female, sophomore in high school, loves shopping with friends, taking pictures of friends (50-year-old mother looking for more information about her daughter's social life and who she is spending time with)
   ANSWER: E

10. 14-year-old male, loves rap music, dancing at parties, talking to girls, wearing bandannas (14-year-old male, listens to country music, very few friends, spends weekends at grandparent's house playing board games)
    ANSWER: M

Profiles: Who are you talking to?

Photos

Photo A

Photo B

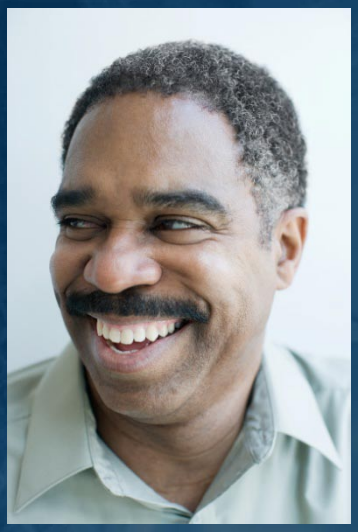


Photo C

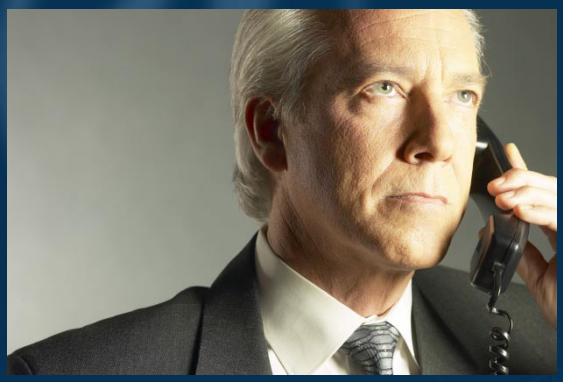


Photo D

Photo E

Photo F

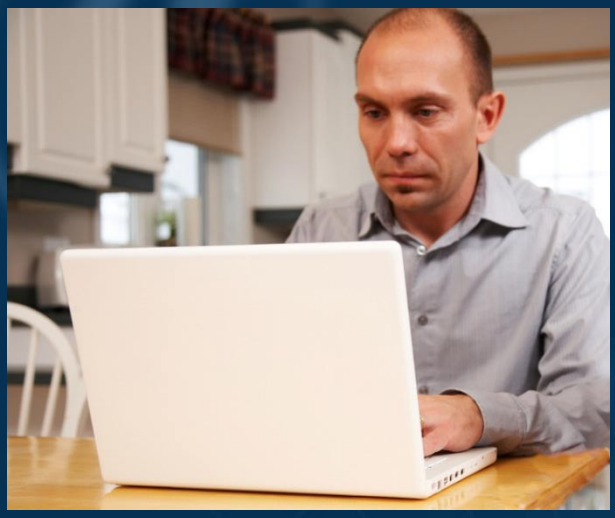


Photo G

Photo H

Photo I

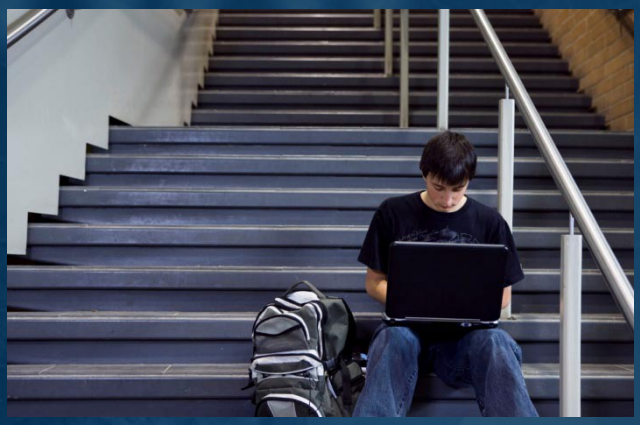
Photo J

Photo K

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan

Photo L

Photo M



Please note these photos are for illustrative purposes only and the descriptions are not actual postings, but are for instructional purposes only.