



## Two Truths and a Lie: Profile Edition

### For Grades 9-12

#### Objective

Students learn about the ease of online misrepresentation and the difficulty in verifying information posted or shared by strangers online. Students should also be mindful about what they post about themselves, because misrepresenting themselves could affect future employment and school opportunities as well as potentially damage their reputation.

#### Required Materials

Provided scenarios of online profiles  
Projector

#### Instructions

Ask the students to determine if the statements about each online user are true or false about the individual based on the profile or synopsis provided. There will be two true statements and one false statement (lie) for each individual.

Project the sample profiles onto a screen or wall. Allow students a few minutes to read the profile and then read the three statements aloud. Ask students which two statements they think are true and which one they think is false.

#### Discussion

Is there a way to determine if something posted online is true?

How can you tell if someone you are talking to is telling the truth? How about what you read online?

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

Does the social networking site check the accuracy of what its users post?

There is a perceived anonymity online, which allows users to misrepresent themselves. They can lie, or exaggerate, about their looks, age, occupation, interests, and more. People think they won't get caught.

While users can lie online and there is no easy way to verify the information posted, the Internet is not anonymous. Law enforcement can track you down if necessary. But for the average user, it can be difficult to sort out what is fact or fiction when talking to strangers online. It is important to remember that people you meet online are still strangers, and the information they share through their profile or while chatting might not be accurate.

Why do you think some youth lie about themselves or exaggerate online?

Why is it important to be truthful in what you post online?

Colleges, school administrators, coaches, potential employers, and your family are just some of the people who can read what you post online. This is why what we say online in conversations, profiles, and other postings is important. Do not exaggerate, post photos and information about activities that could damage your real world reputation (parties, provocative or inappropriate photos, drugs, weapons, etc.), and remember what you post is public and can be seen by anyone.

## Two Truths and a Lie: Profile Edition

### Profile 1:

Name: Toby

Age: 18

Sex: Male

Interests: Playing soccer, partying, hanging out with my girlfriend

Statements:

1. This is the profile of an 18-year-old.
2. Toby parties and hangs out with his girlfriend in his free time.
3. Toby is a male.

### Profile 2:

“Casey is 16 with blonde hair and likes: rock climbing, video games and baking.”

Statements:

1. Casey is a girl.
2. Casey is 16 years old.
3. Casey has blonde hair.

### Profile 3:

Name: Jim

Sex: Male

Age: 18

Interests: Golfing, fishing, hiking

Statements:

1. Jim is 18 years old.
2. Jim enjoys fishing.
3. Jim is his real name.

#### **Profile 4:**

“David is 17. He is a senior in high school, and he is a very popular star athlete. David has received many athletic scholarships to Division I schools. David is lonely and looking for a girl who he can have fun with before he leaves for college.”

Statements:

1. His name is David.
2. He is 17 years old.
3. David enjoys playing sports.

#### **Profile 5:**

Name: Taylor

Sex: Female

Age: 16

Interests: Painting my nails, cheerleading and dance team

Statements:

1. This user is a girl.
2. The user is 16 years old.
3. The user’s name is Taylor.

#### **Profile 6:**

“Matthew is 15 and started a blog about how popular he is. In this blog, Matthew says many hurtful things about the losers that go to his school. He talks about how the losers shouldn’t even go to school, and how he wants to punch all of them.”

Statements:

1. Matthew makes rude comments online.
2. Matthew is 15 years old.
3. Matthew is popular at school.

#### **Profile 7:**

Name: Abby

Sex: Female

Age: 15

Favorite Actors/Actresses: Miley Cyrus

Activities: Dress up, Webkins

Statements:

1. Abby is the name of this user.
2. She has seen the Miley Cyrus movie four times.
3. Abby is 15 years old.

### **Profile 8:**

Daniel joins a social networking site dedicated to comic book fans. His profile includes the following information:

Name: Daniel

Sex: Male

Age: 13

Interests: Water skiing, baseball and comic books (especially DC Comics)

Statements:

1. This is the profile of a 13-year-old.
2. This user loves comic books and enjoys chatting about them online.
3. Daniel is the name of this user and is a boy.

### **Profile 9:**

Name: Sammy

Sex: Female

Age: 18

Interests: Partying, shopping, tanning

Statements:

1. Sammy lied online to join the social networking site.
2. Sammy is a girl.
3. Sammy enjoys partying, shopping with her friends at her town's mall, and going tanning.

### **Profile 10:**

MySpace Profile

#### **Sarah's Details**

Status: In a relationship

Here For: Music, finding out about new bands and amazing shows to go to

Orientation: Straight

Body Type: Athletic

Ethnicity: Who cares?

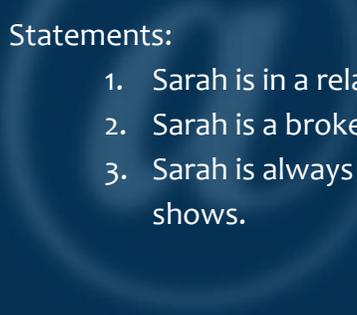
Zodiac Sign: No clue

Children: Maybe someday

Education: Some college

Occupation: Student

Income: Broke student



Statements:

1. Sarah is in a relationship.
2. Sarah is a broke college student working on her degree.
3. Sarah is always listening to music and spends most Friday nights at the Metro in Chicago at shows.

## Two Truths and a Lie: Profile Edition

### Answer Key

#### Profile 1:

Name: Toby

Age: 18

Sex: Male

Interests: Playing soccer, partying, hanging out with my girlfriend

Statements:

1. This is the profile of an 18-year-old.
  - a. TRUE
2. Toby parties and hangs out with his girlfriend in his free time.
  - a. FALSE – Toby is single and enjoys playing Xbox Live with people he’s met online.
3. Toby is a male.
  - a. TRUE

#### Profile 2:

“Casey is 16 with blonde hair and likes: rock climbing, video games and baking.”

Statements:

1. Casey is a girl.
  - a. FALSE – he is a boy.
2. Casey is 16 years old.
  - a. TRUE
3. Casey has blonde hair.
  - a. TRUE

#### Profile 3:

Name: Jim

Sex: Male

Age: 18

Interests: Golfing, fishing, hiking

Statements:

1. Jim is 18 years old.
  - a. FALSE – Jim is actually 50 years old.
2. Jim enjoys fishing.
  - a. TRUE
3. Jim is his real name.
  - a. TRUE

#### **Profile 4:**

“David is 17. He is a senior in high school, and he is a very popular star athlete. David has received many athletic scholarships to Division I schools. David is lonely and looking for a girl who he can have fun with before he leaves for college.”

Statements:

1. His name is David.
  - a. TRUE
2. He is 17 years old.
  - a. FALSE – David is actually 47 years old.
3. David enjoys playing sports.
  - a. TRUE

#### **Profile 5:**

Name: Taylor

Sex: Female

Age: 16

Interests: Painting my nails, cheerleading and dance team

Statements:

1. This user is a girl.
  - a. FALSE – the user is actually a boy.
2. The user is 16 years old.
  - a. TRUE
3. The user’s name is Taylor.
  - a. TRUE

#### **Profile 6:**

“Matthew is 15 and started a blog about how popular he is. In this blog, Matthew says many hurtful things about the losers that go to his school. He talks about how the losers shouldn’t even go to school, and how he wants to punch all of them.”

Statements:

1. Matthew makes rude comments online.
  - a. TRUE
2. Matthew is 15 years old.
  - a. TRUE
3. Matthew is popular at school.
  - a. FALSE – Matthew is teased by the “popular” kids at school and goes online to try to retaliate.

### Profile 7:

Name: Abby

Sex: Female

Age: 15

Favorite Actors/Actresses: Miley Cyrus

Activities: Dress up, Webkins

#### Statements:

1. Abby is the name of this user.
  - a. TRUE
2. She has seen the Miley Cyrus movie four times.
  - a. TRUE
3. Abby is 15 years old.
  - a. FALSE - Abby is 25.

### Profile 8:

Daniel joins a social networking site dedicated to comic book fans. His profile includes the following information:

Name: Daniel

Sex: Male

Age: 13

Interests: Water skiing, baseball and comic books (especially DC Comics)

#### Statements:

1. This is the profile of a 13-year-old.
  - a. TRUE
2. This user loves comic books and enjoys chatting about them online.
  - a. TRUE
3. Daniel is the name of this user and is a boy.
  - a. FALSE – the user is actually a girl named Danielle .

### **Profile 9:**

Name: Sammy

Sex: Female

Age: 18

Interests: Partying, shopping, tanning

#### Statements:

1. Sammy lied online to join the social networking site.
  - a. TRUE – Sammy is only 12 years old.
2. Sammy is a girl.
  - a. TRUE
3. Sammy enjoys partying, shopping with her friends at her town's mall, and going tanning.
  - a. FALSE – Sammy has not been to a party, her mom does her shopping for her, and she has never been tanning.

### **Profile 10:**

MySpace Profile

#### **Sarah's Details**

Status: In a relationship

Here For: music, finding out about new bands and amazing shows to go to

Orientation: Straight

Body Type: Athletic

Ethnicity: Who cares?

Zodiac Sign: No clue

Children: Maybe someday

Education: Some college

Occupation: Student

Income: Broke student

#### Statements:

1. Sarah is in a relationship.
  - a. TRUE
2. Sarah is a broke college student working on her degree.
  - a. FALSE – Sarah's a senior in high school.
3. Sarah is always listening to music and spends most Friday nights at the Metro in Chicago at shows.
  - a. TRUE