|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Activity Guide - Research Yourself** |  |

## Your Digital Self

You may already be aware of information about you that is freely available online, but you probably haven’t thought about it from the standpoint of research. Suppose someone were to research you online. What would they be able to find? What connections could they make from the existing data out there to learn even more about you?

## Conducting Your Research

You should look through any publicly available pieces of information online. Start by simply looking up your name in a search engine but then refine your results by adding more specific information like the place you live. Don’t forget social networks, your school website, or any other websites you frequently use.

## Record Your Findings

In the space below record the information you find about yourself. If you know something is available online but can’t get to it now record it anyway. If you need more space you can record your findings on the back of this sheet as well.

Student answers will vary, but may include some of the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Information** | **Where you found it** |
| I’m a senior at [SCHOOL NAME], I’m on the swim teamPictures of me from my Facebook profileVideo of me in my backyard with my friendsMy email addressMy rehearsal schedule for the school play | Article on the school paper websiteImage searchYouTubeMy bio on the drama club websiteCalendar on the drama club website |

**Now connect the dots.** If someone *really* wanted to find out about you online, given the information above, what would they know about you?

Since they know what school I go to, they could figure out what town I live in. They would know what I look like from my Facebook pictures. From the background in the video of me in my backyard, they could use Google Maps to figure out what neighborhood I live in, and maybe even the exact house I live in. From my rehearsal schedule, they could figure out when I’m at school and when I’m going home at night.

**What piece of information you found above do you think poses the biggest threat to your security or privacy?** Why do you think so?

My rehearsal schedule. If someone wanted to know where I am, it would be really easy to look at that and then follow me home when I leave school at night. Or, if they know where I live, they would know when I’m not at home and might try to break into my house.