

Mini presentation 2 script - Is it right that our identity is used as a measure of our authenticity online?

Target audience

Children aged 14-18

Timing

10-15 minutes

Preparation

Familiarise yourself with the other documents included in this pack.

Optional Starter - Run the Ground Rules activity from the 'Establishing a safe and supportive learning environment' document.

Resources

- 14-18s Mini presentation 2 – Is it right that our identity is used as a measure of our authenticity online?

If you would like to complete an offline activity:

- Appendix 1

Lesson outcomes

Learners will be able to:

- Consider what authenticity means online.
- Understand what factors contribute to measuring authenticity on online services.
- Reflect on how measuring authenticity can impact on the freedom of our online identities.

Free to be ME



Slide 1

Title Slide



Slide 2

During this session we will be thinking about how the authenticity of our online accounts is measured on our identities, and whether this has an impact on our ability to curate, adapt and change our identities.



Slide 3

What does it mean to be authentic online?

Take some answers.

Click through the next 5 slides to reveal examples. Learners can decide on whether they define authenticity online or not.

Discuss the above using follow on questions:

- Is everyone authentic online?
- What would it look like if someone wasn't being authentic?
- Does being authentic online matter?

Slides 4-9 have also been provided as an offline activity in [Appendix 1](#)



Slide 4

Is this being authentic online?

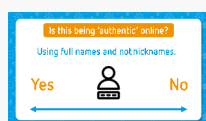
Only using real and unedited pictures.

Discuss the above using follow on questions:

- Would we judge someone as fake if their pictures weren't of them or were edited?
- Why might someone want to edit their pictures?
- Why might someone not want to use pictures of themselves online?

Note to educators

It is important to highlight that this isn't necessarily always done to mislead people, but could also be due to a lack of confidence or feeling unaccepted.



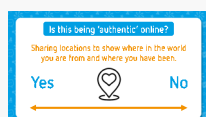
Slide 5

Is this being authentic online?

Using full names and not nicknames.

Discuss the above using follow on questions:

- If someone is known by their nickname should they be allowed to use that instead online?
- Why do social media, games and apps ask for a name when you sign up?



Slide 6

Is this being authentic online?

Sharing locations to show where in the world you are from and where you have been.

Discuss the above using follow on questions:

- Would you want people to know this about you?
- Would you feel comfortable connecting with someone online who never shared anything about location? (Not even a country or city?)



Slide 7

Is this being authentic online?

Sharing more personal information like age, gender, sexual orientation etc.

Discuss the above using follow on questions:

- Is this important information to share online?
- Why might someone want to know this about others online?



Slide 8

Is this being authentic online?

Sharing our purpose for being online.

Discuss the above using follow on question:

- Should we all have to share what we enjoy doing online and why we are there?



Slide 9

Is this being authentic online?

Being the same person online as you are offline.

Discuss the above using follow on question:

- Why might someone not want to be the same person online?

Note for educators

It is important to highlight that this isn't necessarily always done to mislead people, but could also be due to a lack of confidence or feeling unaccepted.



Slide 10

A lot of value is put on authenticity, but we can also curate and edit our own content on social media.

So, is 'authenticity' losing its meaning?

Discuss the above using follow on questions:

- Do you look out for authenticity online? How do you spot it?
- Does being authentic matter to you?
- Would you challenge someone for not being authentic? Why/why not?



Slide 11

Social media sites will often use our identity as a measure for authenticity. This means that our photos, posts, personal details etc. all make up how authentic we're are deemed to be.

Read out and discuss some of the quotes.

Click to reveal the questions on screen:

"Any profile on Facebook or Google that does not appear to be tied to an offline name is removed. Nicknames and pseudonyms, regardless of their longevity are considered breaches of terms of service."

- Should we be allowed to adopt pseudonyms online?
- "Authentic identity is non-anonymous."
- Why can't someone be authentic AND anonymous online?
- "Facebook also believes authenticity is linked to a person's photo stream."
- Is this right when we curate, edit and change our pictures?



Slide 12

Why might someone choose a different identity online, or even to be anonymous?

Some answers might include but not be limited to:

- They are unconfident or have low self-esteem.
- They fear judgement and lack of acceptance from others.
- They have previously received hate, abuse or threats.
- They wish to purposely mislead.
- They want to experiment with an aspect of their identity.
- They aren't comfortable with being that aspect of themselves offline.



Slide 13

We can make changes to our profiles, pictures and posts at any time and many platforms offer us the ability to share different content with different people. Does this mean that our identity is not singular or fixed, and is instead made up of multiple parts of our lives, personalities and experiences?

If we were to consider this 'Identity Spectrum' ranging from anonymous to verified, would a verified celebrity be the most authentic person online? Would someone who chooses to remain anonymous therefore be inauthentic?

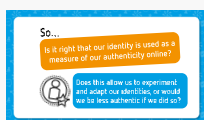
Discuss the above using follow on questions:

- Would someone who shares content to appease others be more authentic than someone who was self-assertive in what they share about themselves?
- If someone uses multiple versions of identity online does that mean they are less authentic, or only authentic in some spaces?



Slide 14

So if we know that people will experiment with their identity online for lots of different reasons, what aspects of ourselves do you think should indicate authenticity online? Or should identity be used at all?



Slide 15

So, is it right that our identity is used as a measure of our authenticity online?
Does this allow us to experiment and adapt our identities, or would we be less authentic if we did so?



Slide 16

Is there really a 'real' you, me or anybody online?
We may see people being called fake online for portraying a different version of themselves but...

Don't we all present ourselves in different ways depending on who we are with, where we are and how we feel?

The big question is...

- Is it up to us as individuals to be more 'real' and 'honest' or is it up to all of us to make online and offline spaces more accepting of everyone?

Discuss this final question as a group or conduct it as a vote.

Appendix 1

Authenticity scales

Mark on the authenticity scale whether you think something would make you more or less authentic online.

	Less authentic	More authentic
Only using real and unedited pictures.		
Using full names and not nicknames.		
Providing locations to show where in the world you are from and have been.		
Sharing more personal information like age, gender, sexual orientation etc.		
Sharing our purpose for being online.		
Being the same person online as you are offline.		

Key questions

- What would make someone more authentic online?
- If you put anything lower down the scale, then what would someone have to change to move higher?
- How do you judge someone's authenticity online?
- How would you want someone to judge your authenticity online?