

Topic 6.4: Your Privacy on Social Media

A person's right to privacy has become a contentious issue with regards to the information and data that is collected by technologies, social media platforms, and digital tools and apps. Social media sites collect your personal information as soon as you register. Websites use trackers to capture and share your data. Apps that you download can track your location and even share it with authorities.

How protected is your data online? Explore the *New York Times* article [I Visited 47 Sites. Hundreds of Trackers Followed Me](#) and then watch the following video [Adam Ruins Everything - The Terrifying Cost of "Free" Websites](#).



Watch on YouTube <https://edtechbooks.org/-ovcW>

Privacy means freedom from "interference or intrusion" while **information privacy** is having "some control over how your personal information is collected and used" ([International Association of Privacy Professionals](#), 2021, para. 1).

Information privacy is central to our everyday experiences during what Harvard Business School professor Shoshana Zuboff (2019) calls the current age of "surveillance capitalism." This digital-age form of profit-making "unilaterally claims human experience as free raw material for translation into behavioral data" ([Zuboff, 2019, p. 8](#)). Google, Amazon, Facebook, and other technology firms have organized their businesses around collecting and selling people's personal information. Apps, search

engines, and even smart appliances, track users' online activities. Manufacturers and advertisers buy that data and use it to target products to consumers. In Zuboff's (2019) view, your private information is used to create "*prediction products* that anticipate what you will do now, soon, and later" (p. 8).

While the Constitution has no explicitly stated right of privacy, courts have ruled that there is, in the words of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, a "[zone of privacy](#)" that includes privacy of beliefs (established by the First Amendment), privacy of the home (Third Amendment), privacy of one's person, possessions, papers, records (Fourth Amendment), and personal liberty (Fourteenth Amendment). Learn more at [The Right of Privacy](#) from the *Exploring Constitutional Conflicts* website by the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law.

In the following activity, you will review the privacy policies of various websites, apps, and social media platforms and then, based on what you learn, propose an amendment to the Constitution that focuses on the right to privacy in digital settings.

Activity: Propose an Amendment for the Right to Privacy in Digital Settings

- Conduct a research study in which you review the privacy policies and terms of service of at least 3 social media platforms (e.g., TikTok, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube), 3 apps that you have downloaded, and 3 websites that you visit often.
 - What personally identifiable information is collected (e.g., location data? IP address? demographic data? browsing history)?
 - How is the personally identifiable information protected by the company? Does their privacy policy explicitly state how they protect and secure your data?
 - How is the personally identifiable information used by the company? Do they use it for internal benefits (e.g., improving their user interface)? Sell it to third-party companies? Share it with authorities?
- Then, explore the [length of the Terms of Service](#) of 14 popular apps. Why do you think these agreements are so long?
- Next, consider what personal information you are willing to share by using the [Data, Privacy, and Identity Drag and Drop Cards](#).
- Finally, based on what you discovered during your research, **write a proposal to add an [Amendment to the U.S. Constitution](#)** that focuses on giving people the explicit right to privacy in digital settings.

Designing for Learning: Student-Created Activity Example

[Propose an Amendment for the Right to Privacy in Digital Settings](#) by Carly Erickson, Brady Buckman, & Emma Stankiewicz

Additional Resources:

- [What New Amendments to the Constitution are Needed Today?](#)
- [You Are Now Remotely Controlled: Surveillance capitalists control the science and the](#)

- [scientists, the secrets and the truth.](#)
- [Privacy and Internet Life: Lesson Plan for Immediate Classrooms](#)
- [Tips for Protecting Your Social Media Privacy](#)
- [Evaluating Cost, Privacy, and Data](#)

Connecting to the eBook

[Building Democracy for All: The Bill of Rights, the 14th Amendment, and Article I of the Massachusetts Constitution](#)

Connecting to the Standards

- [Massachusetts Civics & Government Standards](#)
 - *Compare core documents associated with the protection of individual rights, including the Bill of Rights, the 14th Amendment, and Article 1 of the Massachusetts Constitution. (Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History and Social Studies) [8.T7.4]*
- [ISTE Standards](#)
 - Digital Citizen
 - 2d: Students manage their personal data to maintain digital privacy and security and are aware of data-collection technology used to track their navigation online.
 - Knowledge Constructor
 - 3a: Students plan and employ effective research strategies to locate information and other resources for their intellectual or creative pursuits.
 - 3d: Students build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories and pursuing answers and solutions.
- [DLCS Standards](#)
 - Safety and Security (CAS.a)
 - Interpersonal and Societal Impact (CAS.c)
 - Digital Tools (DTC.a)
 - Collaboration and Communication (DTC.b)
 - Research (DTC.c)
- [English Language Arts > History/Social Studies Common Core Standards](#)
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.5
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.5



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