

Mike Ribble’s Nine Elements of Digital Citizenship (*) – Quoted exactly as presented	Photosharing Apps (Snapchat, Instagram, PicCollage) –Teaching Digital Citizenship
<p>1. Digital Access: <i>full electronic participation in society.</i></p> <p>Technology users need to be aware that not everyone has the same opportunities when it comes to technology. Working toward equal digital rights and supporting electronic access is the starting point of Digital Citizenship. Digital exclusion makes it difficult to grow as a society increasingly using these tools. Helping to provide and expand access to technology should be goal of all digital citizens. Users need to keep in mind that there are some that may have limited access, so other resources may need to be provided. To become productive citizens, we need to be committed to make sure that no one is denied digital access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided these apps can be accessed using school resources, they would provide exposure and positive learning experiences for students who may be excluded from learning with them otherwise. (Edudemic Staff, January 12, 2015) • Once students have means to access the technology, these are the kinds of communication tools likely to be used, yet those without prior access will not know how to use them safely and effectively unless taught.
<p>2. Digital Commerce: <i>electronic buying and selling of goods.</i></p> <p>Technology users need to understand that a large share of market economy is being done electronically. Legitimate and legal exchanges are occurring, but the buyer or seller needs to be aware of the issues associated with it. The mainstream availability of Internet purchases of toys, clothing, cars, food, etc. has become commonplace to many users. At the same time, an equal amount of goods and services which are in conflict with the laws or morals of some countries are surfacing (which might include activities such as illegal downloading, pornography, and gambling). Users need to learn about how to be effective consumers in a new digital economy.</p>	
<p>3. Digital Communication: <i>electronic exchange of information.</i></p> <p>One of the significant changes within the digital revolution is a person’s ability to communicate with other people. In the 19th century, forms of communication were limited. In the 21st century, communication options have exploded to offer a wide variety of choices (e.g., e-mail, cellular phones, instant messaging). The expanding digital communication options have changed everything because people are able to keep in constant communication with anyone else. Now everyone has the opportunity to communicate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sole purpose of these apps is to communicate and share information. • Pictures, captions and the “belief” that some of these communications are temporary is influencing what is being communicated and the choices young people are making online. • These are the type of apps most commonly chosen by students. Helping students dig into how these photosharing apps work and what is and is not appropriate to share while using them is an ideal platform for teaching this aspect of digital citizenship.

<p>and collaborate with anyone from anywhere and anytime. Unfortunately, many users have not been taught how to make appropriate decisions when faced with so many different digital communication options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is authentic – what they are currently using. • Learn to evaluate tools – which tools are the right ones for me? Why? • Use of these apps and lessons can and should be integrated into all curriculum and not taught as special one-off lessons. (ConnectSafely, August 17, 2015) • They promote communication and collaboration not only with classmates but with the outside world.
<p>4. Digital Literacy: <i>process of teaching and learning about technology and the use of technology.</i></p> <p>While schools have made great progress in the area of technology infusion, much remains to be done. A renewed focus must be made on what technologies must be taught as well as how it should be used. New technologies are finding their way into the work place that are not being used in schools (e.g., Videoconferencing, online sharing spaces such as wikis). In addition, workers in many different occupations need immediate information (just-in-time information). This process requires sophisticated searching and processing skills (i.e., information literacy). Learners must be taught how to learn in a digital society. In other words, learners must be taught to learn anything, anytime, anywhere. Business, military, and medicine are excellent examples of how technology is being used differently in the 21st century. As new technologies emerge, learners need to learn how to use that technology quickly and appropriately. Digital Citizenship involves educating people in a new way— these individuals need a high degree of information literacy skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As these apps are less about finding, evaluating and processing information, they are more suited to developing media literacy skills associated with communication and comprehension based on photovisual literacy and making inferences.
<p>5. Digital Etiquette: <i>electronic standards of conduct or procedure.</i></p> <p>Technology users often see this area as one of the most pressing problems when dealing with Digital Citizenship. We recognize inappropriate behavior when we see it, but before people use technology they do not learn digital etiquette (i.e., appropriate conduct). Many people feel uncomfortable talking to others about their digital etiquette. Often rules and regulations are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photosharing apps are most appropriate for teaching digital etiquette. The “temporary” feel of these apps seems to lead many young people to make questionable decisions regarding what they say or share. • The authenticity of the apps would help students understand the reality of what they are actually presenting of themselves when they use them.

<p>created or the technology is simply banned to stop inappropriate use. It is not enough to create rules and policy, we must teach everyone to become responsible digital citizens in this new society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banning the apps from schools and classrooms does not teach them how to use them effectively and responsibly.
<p>6. Digital Law: <i>electronic responsibility for actions and deeds</i> Digital law deals with the ethics of technology within a society. Unethical use manifests itself in form of theft and/or crime. Ethical use manifests itself in the form of abiding by the laws of society. Users need to understand that stealing or causing damage to other people’s work, identity, or property online is a crime. There are certain rules of society that users need to be aware in a ethical society. These laws apply to anyone who works or plays online. Hacking into others information, downloading illegal music, plagiarizing, creating destructive worms, viruses or creating Trojan Horses, sending spam, or stealing anyone’s identify or property is unethical.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While this could be taught within the context of photosharing apps, these are more often used for personal sharing and would not be the tools with which teachers would have the most impact.
<p>7. Digital Rights & Responsibilities: <i>those freedoms extended to everyone in a digital world.</i> Just as in the American Constitution where there is a Bill of Rights, there is a basic set of rights extended to every digital citizen. Digital citizens have the right to privacy, free speech, etc. Basic digital rights must be addressed, discussed, and understood in the digital world. With these rights also come responsibilities as well. Users must help define how the technology is to be used in an appropriate manner. In a digital society these two areas must work together for everyone to be productive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photosharing apps would most definitely serve authentically to teach this aspect of digital citizenship. Sharing of photos or comments about someone – friend or not – needs to be discussed based on these guidelines. • Students make a lot of assumptions about what is okay to share or post or copy – not only about themselves, but others as well. • Communicating with the larger, global world, provides the opportunity to teach digital rights and responsibilities on a larger scale and in a real way.
<p>8. Digital Health & Wellness: <i>physical and psychological well-being in a digital technology world.</i> Eye safety, repetitive stress syndrome, and sound ergonomic practices are issues that need to be addressed in a new technological world. Beyond the physical issues are those of the psychological issues that are becoming more prevalent such as Internet addiction. Users need to be taught that there are inherent dangers of technology. Digital Citizenship includes a culture where technology users are taught how to protect themselves through education and training.</p>	

<p>9. Digital Security (self-protection): <i>electronic precautions to guarantee safety.</i></p> <p>In any society, there are individuals who steal, deface, or disrupt other people. The same is true for the digital community. It is not enough to trust other members in the community for our own safety. In our own homes, we put locks on our doors and fire alarms in our houses to provide some level of protection. The same must be true for the digital security. We need to have virus protection, backups of data, and surge control of our equipment. As responsible citizens, we must protect our information from outside forces that might cause disruption or harm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most people click “I agree” on Terms of Service agreements and do not read privacy statements for the apps they use. Students can learn how to look critically at these to make informed choices about what apps to choose and how to use them safely and appropriately. • Again, these types of apps are ones of choice, so the learning is more authentic. • Use of these apps can help “shift the conversation around teen’s social media use away from a fear of getting caught and more toward a healthy socialization, effective self-regulation and overall safety”. (Homayoun, 2017)
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References

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