

Expert Group - Privacy Online

Directions: In your expert group, read and discuss the information provided on this reference sheet. When finished, brainstorm at least two rules, which represent the information you have learned. Remember: You are responsible for becoming the expert on this topic. You will be required to share this information with your base group.

Online identity

The Internet is an arena of information. However, it is not anonymous. When you sign on, others have access to you. Your e-mail address, screen name, and password serve as barriers between you and others. You need to maintain this barrier by not including private or personal information in an online identity.

There are many people out there who would like to know more about you for a variety of reasons.:

1. They could want to harm you.
2. They could want to steal from you.
3. They could use information to conduct their own business, such as selling your info or using it in an illegal manner.

If you are under 13, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) applies to you. It requires commercial Web site operators to get parental consent before getting your personal information. It is hoped that this law will help stop Web site owners who might misuse information they collect from you.



For those older than 13: You still need to be careful.