


How to talk to patrons about: *Advice for Teens (Managing Social Media)*


- It's important for teens to understand how to keep their social media accounts -- and the content they share on them -- protected.
- One of the best -- and worst -- things about social media is how easy it is to share content. Take a quick video at a concert and want to share it with your friends? No problem. But that also means that sometimes we might post something before thinking through if it could hurt someone's feelings. Maybe a friend looks really bad in a picture, or maybe you make a joke that could easily be misinterpreted. So it's always a good idea to slow down a bit and double-check your post before sharing.

“Can you think of reasons why it might be bad for just anyone to see your social media posts? Would you want your teachers/coaches/future boss to see what you post on social media?”



Advice for Teens: *Managing Social Media*

You probably have at least one social media account, maybe on TikTok, Snapchat, or Instagram. Here are some tips for managing these accounts.



- Make sure your phone is password protected.** You don't want friends—or strangers—being able to access and post to your social media apps.
- Think before you post.** Sometimes people post content in the heat of the moment, then regret sharing it later.
- Review what you're sharing.** Sometimes people misunderstand what you're trying to say, and sometimes your posts could affect your friendships or your job/college prospects, so make sure you're okay sharing that text, photo, or video more widely.
- Use privacy settings.** Most social media let you decide who can see your posts. Don't want anyone on the internet to see your stuff? Set your account to private.

For more information, visit <https://safedata.umd.edu>