



AIM OF THIS SECTION: Learn how to use social media and other platforms in ways that connect us with others positively and safely

1. WHAT'S THE MESSAGE



20 mins



OUTCOME:

Explore how information and posts online can change when shared



MATERIALS:

Paper, pencil

WHAT HAPPENS:

Everyone gets a slip of paper and sits in a circle. The first person whispers a word to their neighbor, who draws a picture of what they hear and passes it to the third person, who whispers what they see to the next person and so on with the message alternating between words and pictures. Is the message the same when it gets back to the beginning?

Start with simple objects or phrases then make the message more complex.

Play again. This time secretly select someone in the circle who will change one word of the message. Can anyone work out where it changed?



DISCUSS: How can messages change online? When you've shared information digitally, how much control do you have over it? Have

you ever read something and found out that some part of the information was missing or was untrue? How did that make you feel? Is there a way to avoid or control the damage done? What can you do to avoid having your posts or messages altered?

Once something is online we have no control over it, especially when done in public digital spaces.

Messages and photos can be photoshopped, videos cropped, articles edited to serve a purpose different than intended.

When personal information, data, photos etc are taken out of context or altered it can make us feel powerless and violated.

There are some things you can do if this happens:

- *If you know who changed something you posted, ask them to take it off the internet.*
- *Use the report button that websites provide to report the altered message/photo/video etc.*
- *Remember it is not your fault. Try to always think twice before posting anything online, especially personal information.*