Privacy on Line: Fact or Fiction?

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

■ analyze the relative importance of privacy while using the Internet
■ debate the role of privacy in individual decision making while online
■ determine how important online privacy is to them in their everyday lives

OVERVIEW

Students will use a corner debate to determine their peers’ opinions on the importance of online privacy.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Privacy and Surveillance with New Technologies
Four signs: “Generally Agree,” “Strongly Agree,” “Generally Disagree,” “Strongly Disagree”

PREPARATION

As homework: Have students actively read Part 6: Online Privacy in Privacy and Surveillance with New Technologies, looking for each author’s point of view and the arguments presented in support of it. Remind them to read the introduction, which presents an overview of the issue and the articles. They are to answer questions 1 and 2 found at the end of the section introduction and bring their answers to class.

In class: Post one sign in each corner of the room.
PROCEDURE

Before beginning the lesson, resolve any questions about the readings.

1. Explain that the class will conduct a corner debate on the statement: The Government Should Pass Strict Laws to Ensure Internet Privacy. They are to determine where they stand on the issue and move to the corner that most closely expresses their opinion: “Strongly Agree,” “Strongly Disagree,” “Generally Agree,” “Generally Disagree.”

2. Once the students are in their groups, have them discuss the issue and present arguments to defend their positions. They may use their homework for reference.

3. Invite each group to present their arguments to the class. Each student must participate in the presentation.

4. Ask the students to move to the corner that now reflects their opinion. Did their opinion change, why or why not?

SUMMARY

Ask students to write a short summary of the debate and their thoughts about their role in it.

HOMEWORK

Have students answer question 3 at the end of introduction to Part 6:

Do we live in an era where we cannot reasonably expect to have privacy on the Internet? Do we need to sacrifice online privacy for free services? If so, what are the implications for privacy in other areas of our lives?