

ACTIVITY 23

Who Is the Real You?

Purpose: Consider other aspects of individual identity and introduce the idea that an online identity might differ from a “real life” identity.

ADVISOR NOTES: None

PROCEDURE:

1. Create a Mock Online Search Results Page

- Invite advisees to imagine what search results they would like to see if they did an online search for themselves.
- Then pass out the handout **Online-Search Identity Chart** and ask advisees to complete it. You might create a model for yourself to share with your advisees before they start working on their own.
- Then divide your advisees into groups of three and have them share their charts and discuss the following questions:
 - What does this chart reveal about your identity that your personal identity chart doesn’t?
 - If you could add one more category to this online identity chart, what would you add and why?

2. Explore Online versus Offline Identity

Next, play the video **Online vs. Offline Self: Who Is the Real You?** (03:10) at y2u.be/SZAkZ4TzSEA. Afterward, in small groups or as a whole group, discuss the following questions:

- What are some of the ways that people create online identities for themselves?
- How might an individual’s online identity differ from their real identity? Why do you think these two identities might differ?
- What do you think are some of the costs and benefits that come with our ability to “curate” online identities?
- In the video, Chase argues that our tendency to curate our identities means we “become more brand than personality.” What do you think he means by this statement? Do you agree or disagree with his observation? Why?
- How can we continue to embrace social media while also maintaining our individual identities?

APPROXIMATE TIME:

30 minutes

MATERIALS:



HANDOUT

Online-Search Identity Chart



VIDEO

Online vs. Offline Self:

Who Is the Real You?

(see y2u.be/SZAkZ4TzSEA)



Online-Search Identity Chart

Directions: Answer the questions below to brainstorm ideas for your mock online search.

What are **two websites** that might say something about who you are or connect to your identity? List and describe them below.

Sketch and label **two images** that represent you or say something about who you are.

What is **one product, object, or piece of clothing** that represents something about yourself?

What is **one place** that is important to you and connects to a part of who you are?

Is there **a video** that represents something about yourself or that you feel connected to? It could be a viral video that relates to your sense of humor, a music video, or a TV or movie clip.

What is **an important date** (besides your birthday) that is meaningful to you and that relates to who you are?