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Digital Privacy Blog Project Reflection

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Lipguide project reflection

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In my project I focused a lot on issues surrounding the use of Facebook. I did so because Facebook is the social media outlet that I am familiar with and use. My goals were to inform myself and others about the dangers and hazards of social media. My aim was not to discourage people from using it, but to educate themselves. Topics I focused on ranged from fake news to online shaming to how to protect your digital privacy after death. For me the most important topic I covered would have to be how to maintain privacy and security while using Facebook.

Digital privacy and security are important to me because I am the kind of person who is very open with people I know and am comfortable with but don't like sharing my life with people I don't really know. It makes me uncomfortable to know how much data Facebook collects about me and what it is used for. I also fear someone taking over and misusing my account. During this project and class I have focused a lot on my Facebook settings and how to improve them to maintain optimal privacy. I also want to make sure that the information I receive is as accurate as possible. The amount of fake news that gets spread is astounding. There are times I sit back and think, wow how can that person possible think that is true? In the end I feel like I have my settings at a point where I can maintain some level of privacy with what I share, while still being open enough for those with whom I wish to share information. I have a lot of friends all over the country, and some who live in other countries, that the

only way we really communicate is through Facebook. I want them to know about what's happening in my life but don't want strangers to be able to search me and find everything about me.

Before I started this project and class I was aware of some of the ways my information was used by Facebook and some ways to maintain my digital privacy. Even though I know I have a lot more to learn, I feel more informed of how to protect my online persona. I have always tried to be careful about what I post and share with the world on Facebook. I am a teacher and am very conscious that what I post can be used against me or be taken in the wrong way. It has been nice to learn more ways to secure my digital privacy.

As a high school teacher I have tried to share some of what I have learned with my students. It has been very interesting watching their reactions when we talked about what can be done with their information and also their fourth amendment rights when it comes to digital communication, including the third party doctrine. I plan on continuing to further my understanding of keeping my online persona safe, secure, and private and plan on sharing what I learn with my students and my own children as they become old enough to begin using the internet and social media.