**Instructional Days:** 1-2

**Topic Description:** This lesson engages students in a discussion of the web as social experience. Issues of social responsibility in web use are explored as well as the relative merits of the influence of the web on society, personal lives, and education.

**Objectives:**

The student will be able to:

* Set up a blog.
* Explain basic security issues on the internet.
* Identify web applications which influence society and education.
* Identify appropriate vs. inappropriate use of social websites.

**Outline of the Lesson:**

* Set up a blog (25 minutes)
* Discussion of online security issues (20 minutes)
* Blog entry of students’ online experiences (10 minutes)
* Discussion of parts 1-3 of Growing Up Online from the PBS series Frontline (40 minutes)
* Blog entry reflecting on Growing Up Online (15 minutes)

**Student Activities:**

* Set up a blog.
* Participate in discussion of online security.
* Create a blog entry on online experiences.
* Participate in a discussion about online experiences with social networking sites, blogs, email, online chatting and the kind of impact it has had on their lives.
* View and discuss Growing Up Online.
* Create a Blog entry reflecting on Growing Up Online.

**Teaching/Learning Strategies:**

* Set up a blog
  + Complete the portions of the setup that were not done prior to class.
  + Guide a discussion of online security as students work on setting up their blogs.
* Create a blog entry on online experiences.
  + Show students how to create a blog entry using the blogging tool chosen for the class.
  + Have students create an entry that describes some of their current online experiences.
* Guide a discussion regarding student use of social networking applications. (Note: This discussion may be a review of discussions from Unit 1.) Ask questions such as:
  + Which social networking applications do you use? (blogging, Facebook, MySpace)
  + How often? How many of your friends use them?
  + How important are these web applications to your lives? How have they changed your lives?
    - Living their lives essentially online
    - A revolution in classrooms and in social life
    - Self-expression, trying on new Identities
* Display parts 1-3 of Growing Up Online from the PBS series Frontline.
  + After viewing the video, lead a discussion on the content.
* Blog entry reflecting on Growing Up Online
  + Have students create a blog entry reflecting on the video. Did any of their thoughts change after viewing the video?

Note: Helping each student set up a blog will require some time outside of class and should be completed in advance of the lesson. For example, students need to get a free Google gmail account before signing up for blogger. You may need to verify that these sites can be accessed within the schools firewall.

**Resources:**

* <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/kidsonline/>

Suggested blogging tools:

* <http://www.blogger.com>
* <http://www.tumblr.com>
* <http://wordpress.org/>