

# Selfie-Tasks as a method to "embark" in the topic of self-presentation online

## Goals

So-called Selfies, i.e. pictures created by a person depicting themselves, can be used to convey topics such as media self-portrayal and the associated legal bases such as copyright and the right to one's own picture. In the process, both technical basics such as the right light or perspective are explained and the individual preferences of the participants are taken into account. After the method has been implemented, the participants are sensitized to a reflected media self-portrayal and to image rights and copyright laws.

## Implementation

As an introduction to the method, Selfies are presented to the participants in different perspectives and constellations. Free images can be found on databases such as [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com), [unsplash.com](http://unsplash.com) or [pexels.com](http://pexels.com).



Images: Pexels.com

In the plenum, the participants discuss what can be seen on the pictures and why they were made. Together it is discussed why the people depicted wanted to capture this very moment. Afterwards the discussion can be about why Selfies are made at all and what distinguishes a Selfie to be posted in social networks. Following this, the participants can consider whether and why they themselves publish Selfies or other photos on the Internet and what they pay attention to. Afterwards the technical conditions for a successful Selfie are discussed. Using example pictures, it is explained how perspective, background and lighting conditions influence the Selfie.

The participants then come together in groups of four to five people to create a common selfie. For this purpose, each group receives a separate assignment for a specific Selfie type, which the group must implement together. The Selfie types to choose from are:

**Relfie:** The name "Relfie" consists of the terms "Relationship" and "Selfie". This refers to a couple selfie.

**Feetselfie:** This means a Selfie on which only feet can be seen.

**Shelfie:** "Shelfie" is a combination of the terms "shelf" and "selfie". This means a Selfie with a shelf in the background. In the foreground an individual or a group can be seen.

**Sugly:** "Sugly" is composed of the terms Selfie and Ugly. This refers to a Selfie that is as ugly as possible.

**Helfie:** A Helfie is a picture of your own hairstyle(s). The term is composed of "Hair" and "Selfie".

**Belfie:** The name "Belfie" consists of the terms "Butt" and "Selfie". It is therefore a photo of one's own backside.

**Ussie:** A "Ussie" is a Selfie on which a whole group can be seen. It consists of the words "Us" and "Selfie".

Within five minutes, the participants must now produce a selfie that corresponds to the assignment with which they are satisfied. Before the selected picture is presented to the plenum, all other pictures are deleted. In the large group the selected Selfies are presented and discussed: What can be seen in the pictures, from which perspective were they taken? Why were these pictures selected? After the discussion, the selected Selfies will also be deleted.

Now the focus is on "image rights". The group management asks the participants if they could theoretically publish the pictures. In this way, the topic "Right to one's own picture" is taken up and explained by the group management. The right to one's own picture means that the persons to be seen in a photo must agree to its publication. Before a photo showing the parents, classmates or best friends is published on the Internet, those seen in the photo must be asked. In Germany, an exception is only given if the persons are only visible in the background (to be precise, this point needs a bit more research and explanation) or are not recognizable. In the case of children and adolescents under the age of 18, parents must also agree to the publication. For different countries there might be different laws that the youth worker should be informed about beforehand. After the right to one's own picture has been explained, the group management will switch to copyright. The author is the person who created the work. This can be a photograph, a text, a song or a painting. Copyright protects the works of the authors. The decision as to what happens to one's own work is made solely by the originator. For example, before a photo can be posted on Instagram that the best friend has taken, she must first be asked for permission.

## Using example pictures and cases, the knowledge just learned can now be tested and deepened

Example 1:

„My cousin visited me this week and let me take a picture of her. Can I publish the picture on Facebook?“



Resolution: No, because the cousin must first be asked for permission. Only if she agrees to a publication, the picture may be uploaded in a social network.

Image: Pexels.com

Example 2:

„My mom took this photo of my dad and allowed me to publish it on Instagram. May I do that?“



Resolution: No. Although the mother as the author has agreed to a publication, the father must also give his consent.

Image: Pexels.com

Once the legal foundations have been consolidated, the focus will be on media self-portrayal. Together with the participants, reasons are collected why and how one presents oneself online. How much of one's own privacy should be revealed and where is the limit? What should be considered and what tricks can help? Together with the participants, rules of thumb for a competent handling of social networks can now be worked out. These can look like this:

### Do

- Enter as little personal data as possible such as your own address, mobile phone number, last name or date of birth.
- Minors: For online activities, always consult your parents.
- Check your privacy settings regularly
- Restrict access rights of apps
- Think before every upload: Who can be seen in the picture? Do I have the consent of the shown persons? Who took the picture? Did I ask the person if I could publish the picture?

- Think before every posting: How much does my posting reveal about my private life? Are private details included? Is there anything to be seen/mentioned that has nothing to do with the Internet?
- Create a separate email address for specific pages and networks
- Inform parents or teachers of any problems or questionable incidents.

## Don't

- upload photos of people I didn't ask before
- Post pictures, videos or songs that I didn't make myself
- reveal private details of friends or relatives on the net
- Publish private information such as your own address on the Internet

## Impact

Through the Selfie exercise, children and adolescents are led playfully to the topics of media self-portrayal and image rights. Group work promotes both their social and media skills. The thematic focus on "image rights" trains the participants in the thoughtful and competent handling of image material and copyrighted products. In addition, the children and young people are sensitised to which topics should be avoided on the Internet and where the privacy of others is invaded. The unit is intended to encourage children to rethink and question their own online behaviour.

## Resources

The method requires smartphones or tablets that are used to create the selfies. A beamer with a connection cable facilitates the presentation of the selfies in the plenum, but is not obligatory. If no beamer is available, the Selfies can be presented on the Smartphones or Tablets.



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