



TikTok: Methods to reflect on the topics of self-portrayal and privacy in social media

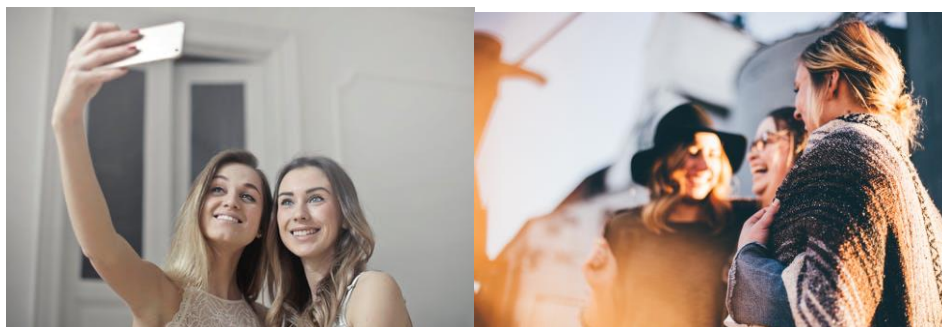
Goals

TikTok is a social media service, which is mainly known for its playback music videos, that users can create themselves. The following method can be used to reflect on the topics of self-portrayal and privacy in social media.

Implementation

As an introduction to the method, participants between the ages of 9 and 13 are asked whether they know and use TikTok. Together they reflect on why the app is so popular with many children and teenagers. Afterwards the participants may select and present their favourite videos on TikTok. Using these examples, they explain to the group what makes the app particularly attractive for them.

Thereupon it can be discussed why videos on TikTok are popular and why it is attractive to record and publish your own videos.



Bilder: Pexels.com/unsplash.com

The participants are then divided into groups of three and given the task of completing a challenge. In the first step of the challenge, they are asked to save their favourite video.

At this point, they should consider how the girls or boys are portrayed in their favorite video. What do they look like? How do they behave? What could their hobbies be?

The participants are to deal with the self-portrayal of their idols and possibly predominant role attributions.

They then continue to work with the TikTok app and scan the TikTok code of another group to follow it. Then the group's task is to set the account to private and to adjust the settings so that only friends can write comments. Finally, they are asked to record a video about friendship in the group. Which filters, pictures



and music they use is up to them. In any case, it is important that the videos may not be published.

Afterwards the tasks are discussed in the plenum and the videos are being presented. The following questions come to the fore: Which aspects of friendship are presented in your own video? How does the group present itself?

In addition different aspects of privacy settings in TikTok and their potential benefits are being discussed.

What could be possible challenges if the account is public?

Questions of copyright are also addressed as a challenge, for example in relation to sharing TikTok songs in other social networks. It is important to explain what copyright is in a child-friendly way.

Quiz for knowledge review and consolidation

After the in-depth exercise, the acquired knowledge can, depending on the amount of time available, also be consolidated by a quiz. If another day is available, the quiz can also serve as a small repetition on the following day.

The "Kahoot" application can be used to create and run the quiz. For this you have to create an account on kahoot.com before starting the project and then create a quiz, which is rather simple. Possible questions for the quiz could be for example: Can I post a TikTok video to Instagram just like that? What happens if I change my account to private?

During the project the website kahoot.com and the quiz are shown via a video projector. When the game mode is selected, a code appears on the screen with which the participants can log into the quiz via tablets or smartphones and thus participate.

Finally, the plenum will collect the Dos and Don'ts that should be considered when using TikTok:

Do

- Take a closer look at your privacy settings and adjust them if necessary.
- Reflect on the following questions before uploading: Who can be seen on the video? Do I have the consent of the persons pictured? Who shot the video? Have I asked the people if I can publish the video?
- Before each post think about what you want to reveal from your private life! How do you want to present yourself? Will you still like your video two years from now?
- Remember to only publish songs on social networks that you have made yourself.

- Inform your parents or a social worker at your school if conflicts or difficult questions arise.

Don't

- Don't publish videos of people you didn't ask before.
- Don't publish songs you didn't create yourself.
- Don't give away private information about yourself on the Internet.
- Don't try to deal with insults and mean comments alone.

Impact

Through the Challenge exercise, children and adolescents playfully deal with the topics of self-portrayal and privacy in TikTok. Through the analysis of their idols, they are made aware of certain role attributions. By questioning dualistic ideas of girlhood and boyhood as well as stereotypical gender expectations, children are made aware of a positive self-image far away from stereotypical attributions. Group work trains both their social and media skills. In addition, they are made aware to which contents they want to publish for a broad audience and which ones better not. The session also encourages children and young people to question their own online behaviour. During the video shooting on the subject of friendship, they deal with different values and combine them in their own media product.

Resources

Smartphones or tablets with Internet access (Wi-Fi at best) are required for the method. In addition, a video projector with connecting cable is required to present the videos in the plenum. If no projector is available, these can also be shown directly on the Smartphones or tablets. Wi-Fi is also required for the Kahoot application.

Links

[Kahoot.com](https://www.kahoot.com)



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