

introduction

Warm-up (5 minutes)

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **identity**.

ASK:

Do people ever express parts of their identities online that they might not express offline?

Guide students to recognize that people sometimes present themselves differently on the Internet than they would face to face.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary terms **exaggerate** and **deceive**.

ASK:

Have you ever heard of people who exaggerated something about themselves online?

Sample responses:

- A girl who exaggerated how many celebrities she had met, so that other people would be impressed
- A kid who exaggerated his experience to get a job on the school paper

Have you ever heard about people who deceive others by pretending to be someone else while they were on the Internet? Why do you think they did this?

Sample responses:

- Someone might pretend to be someone else trying to be mean or attempting to play a trick
- Someone might create several avatars for an online virtual game

DISCUSS with students where these events took place (which website or online community). Solicit their initial thoughts on whether it is a good idea to do the kinds of things they described, and why.

teach 1

Henry's Story (10 minutes)

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary terms **motivate**, **consequences**, and **anonymous**. Explain that the last term will play an important part in the activity they will do following the movie.

REMIND the class that it's perfectly normal to try out different identities online. However, they have to think about what motivates them to do so, and the possible consequences. Tell them:

- *Sometimes you might express different parts of your personality online because you want to be accepted by friends or people in an online community. Or you might do it to experiment and see how others react.*
- *Other times, you might cross over into lying to or deceiving others by pretending you are someone you're not.*
- *It is important that you take responsibility for who you are and what you want to be online, and also consider how this might affect people you interact with online.*

EXPLAIN to the class you will now show them a video about Henry, a real boy who enjoys participating in an online world where he doesn't (fully) reveal his identity.