

Script: Simone [Teen Social Media User and Frequent Internet User]



Keywords: geotagging, social media, youth privacy

Background: Simone, a teen that comes into the library almost every day, is always on the computer talking to friends on social media. Recently, Simone has been getting a lot of messages from strangers and she mentioned it to the youth librarian.

Roles: Simone, Library staff

[During a teen advisory meeting at the library, the topic of getting creepy messages comes up and Simone brings up the messages she's been getting on Instagram.]

Simone: So recently, I've been getting these messages from some random person on my Instagram. It's not anyone I know but they keep sending me notes and they like all my pictures?

Youth librarian: What are they saying to you?

Simone: Nothing bad really, just things like, "Looks like you had a nice time with your friends," and, "That food looks great hope you enjoyed it."

Youth librarian: Do you follow this person as well?

Simone: No, and I'm not sure who they really are. I tried to look at their account but they have it set on private, and I didn't want to request to follow them.

Youth librarian: Have they talked specifically about where you were in those pictures?

Simone: Maybe... I can't remember for sure.

Youth librarian: Is your Instagram private? If not, it might be a good idea to change your setting so only those who you know follow you can see your pictures.

Simone: But I don't really care who sees my pictures.

Youth librarian: But you are concerned about this person?

Simone [sighing]: Well...

Youth librarian: Even if you don't care Simone, locking down your account will prevent you from getting these kinds of messages. And while most people on Instagram

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won't even be an issue, you want to be careful about how much information you reveal in your posts about where you live and hang out.

Simone: I guess I didn't think about it that way. It'd be nice to stop getting messages from this person.

Youth librarian: Do you want me to show you some of the settings on Instagram? Another option is to block users, which keeps them from seeing any of your posts.

Simone: Yeah, that would be great. I don't know if I've ever looked at my settings before.

Youth librarian: No problem. We can go through your other social media accounts too if you'd like.