

Learning Beyond the Classroom



URL: www.readwritethink.org/materials/profile/

With this interactive tool, teens can create printed social networking or magazine/newspaper profiles for themselves, peers or family members whom they have interviewed, or fictional characters from books they have read. Featuring components of popular online social networking applications, this tool engages teens and provides a means for adults to talk about safe, responsible online behavior, such as having an awareness of who could be seeing online profiles and limiting highly personal information.

Here's What to Do

Teens first choose whether they are making a profile for a real person or a fictional character. They are then prompted to provide necessary information (such as an "About Me" section, interests and favorites, and a blog entry) with instructions, suggestions, and examples. Teens are prompted to preview their information at multiple steps before printing. After printing, they choose a photo to cut and paste or they draw an image to complete the profile. See a completed [sample Profile](#) for a fictional character based on Christopher Myers' *Wings*.

More Ideas to Try

- Before a family reunion, have teens invite distant family members to complete the Profile Publisher and bring printouts to the event to jump-start catching up.
- Encourage teens to make a profile for a character in the early chapters of a book. After they finish the book, have them create a new profile that reflects how the character has changed and grown over the course of the novel.
- Teens can design an autobiography by making a profile for each year of their lives. They may want to think of special events or memorable moments to be the focus points and develop each profile around one of those events.

*This tool uses the free Flash browser plug-in (version 8 or later), which can be downloaded from the ReadWriteThink.org Site Tools page: http://www.readwritethink.org/site_tools.html.

To view this tip sheet online, go to www.readwritethink.org/materials/profile/profile.pdf

Intended for: Grades 6–12

Ages 11–18

Technical requirements: Flash 8*

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