Facilitator Safety Guide

Keeping learners safe is as easy as 1-2-3.

At the heart of the Roadtrip Nation Experience is the Interview Project—a transformational learning experience that helps learners improve their social capital and digital literacy.

For facilitators of the Roadtrip Nation Experience—especially those teaching young learners—we know you want to keep learner safety at top of mind. To help you deepen your understanding of the Interview Project, let's go through some of the risks and opportunities that you and your learners may face along the way.

As you review this sheet, have learners review their own **Safety Guide**.

What the Interview Project entails:

1.   Learners will use the internet to research professionals they'd like to interview
2.   Learners will reach out to multiple people via email or phone call to set up an interview
3.   Learners will then conduct an interview with their chosen professional

Potential risks:

1.   **Navigating internet safety and privacy**
2.   **Meeting with someone for the first time**
3.   **Health precautions**

How you can help minimize those risks:

1.   **Navigating internet safety and privacy**
    The best way to keep your learners safe online is through sustained digital citizenship education that helps them recognize the difference between credible and noncredible sources of information. (We've provided some recommended resources below!) Make sure that learners aren't sharing any sensitive personal information online, including their address, birthday, passwords, etc. Remind them that even the email address or phone number they use to reach out to professionals can be used to identify them, so they should only be reaching out to credible points of contact.

2. **Meeting with someone for the first time**
   Of course, we all face risks when meeting up with new people. The best way to minimize risk is to have learners: establish meaningful contact with their professional before agreeing to meet (we strongly recommend a preliminary phone or video call); conduct any meetings in a public place; let others know of their plans before leaving for their meeting or attend the meeting with another trusted person; and trust their gut throughout the meeting, making sure to leave or alert people nearby if anything feels off or inappropriate.

   For classrooms of young learners, make sure to inform parents and guardians about this project. You may also want to consider encouraging them to chaperone any in-person meetings.

3. **Health precautions**
   Although we encourage learners to meet with interviewees in person to help them practice informational interview skills, we know that's not always practical, or applicable for every learner. One way to lessen any risks is by having learners conduct their interviews over the phone or through a video call.

If you're working with young learners, or still feel unsure about privacy or safety risks, here are some modifications you can make to the Interview Project:

1. **Make it a group project:** Encourage learners with similar interests to work together to vet sources, and meet with interviewees in small groups.
2. **Keep things at a distance:** If warranted, you can instruct all of your learners to solely conduct their interviews online, using video or phone call software that you've approved.
3. **Lend a helping hand:** Getting learners familiar with cold calling and emailing is an important part of this project! But if you're worried about internet safety, you can step in and help learners evaluate their interviewees, or provide practice scenarios for learners to work through with you.

Additional Resources:

1. **[Internet Safety Tips from educator Kathleen Morris](#) (includes shareable posters!)**
2. **[K-12 Digital Citizenship Courses by Common Sense Education](#)**
3. **[Five Things Students Should Do to Stay Safe Online by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)](#)**