

4565: Computing Foundations for a Digital Age

Unit 5

Day 6 Lesson Plan: Data Privacy and Consent

Objective

Students will understand how user data is collected and explore the importance of privacy, permissions, and informed consent in technology use.

Materials Needed

- Sample privacy policy excerpts (print or digital)
 - Student worksheets or journals
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Warm-Up: Who's Watching?

Ask:

- “Which apps have access to your camera, microphone, contacts, or location?”
- Use a poll or quick show of hands for each category.

Follow-up:

- Did any of these surprise you?
- Why do you think apps ask for those permissions?

Word Bytes – Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Consent	Permission given by a user to allow access to their data or actions.
Data Mining	The process of extracting useful patterns or information from large sets of data.
Implicit Data	Data collected without direct user input, like location tracking or browsing history.
Explicit Data	Data a user knowingly and actively provides, like filling out a form.
Privacy Policy	A statement that explains how a company collects, uses, and protects your data.

Mini-Lesson: What Does “I Accept” Really Mean?

Explain the difference between **explicit** and **implicit** data.

Give quick examples:

- Signing up for an app → **Explicit**
- GPS tracking in the background → **Implicit**

Show a simplified privacy policy excerpt. Ask:

- What are they collecting?
 - Do they share it?
 - Can you opt out?
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Activity: Data Trail Simulation

Option A – **Live App Permissions Review:**

- Have students open a favorite app and check what permissions it currently has (camera, mic, etc.).

Ask:

- Do those permissions match what the app actually *needs* to do?
- Did you remember giving that permission?

Option B – **Case Study: Ava’s Digital Day**

- Read a short fictional narrative (or show a slideshow) about a student’s day using apps and online tools.

Students track:

- What data is collected?
- Was it implicit or explicit?
- Who has access to that data?

Project Connection

Prompt students to connect today’s topic to their ethical case study:

- “What types of user data does your technology collect? How is consent given (or not)?”

They should begin documenting this in their project journal or outline.

Exit Ticket

- “What’s one change you’d make to how your favorite app handles your data?”

Or

- “What’s one privacy feature all tech should have?”

Student-Friendly Word Byte Examples

- **Consent** → Clicking “Allow” when an app asks for location access
- **Data Mining** → Spotify learning your favorite genre from your playlist habits
- **Implicit Data** → YouTube tracking what you watch without asking
- **Explicit Data** → Creating a profile with your name and birthday
- **Privacy Policy** → The fine print you agree to when signing up for Instagram