Reality of Digital Drama

Match the words to their definition

invisible audience	a widespread belief about a group of people – often negative – that influences how members of that group are perceived and treated
stereotype	creative work that's not copyrighted and therefore free for you to use however you want
public domain	a creative work that is a funny imitation of something and pokes fun at an original work
parody	anyone who can see information about you or posted by you online

* WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Do you think that teens' perceptions of drama can be influenced by what we see on reality TV? Why, or why not?

* DO YOU REMEMBER …
What gender stereotypes have to do with digital drama?

1. Family Activity

With a friend or family member, watch a "one-on-one" interview clip from a reality TV show. (In such clips, a reality TV show cast member is filmed privately, often reflecting upon an event that has already happened or gossiping about another cast member. If you don't see one on TV, you can often find one online by searching for "one-on-one interview" plus the name of a reality show.) Try to imagine the kinds of questions a director, behind the scenes, might be asking the cast member to elicit these kinds of comments. What kind of tactics would a director use to get someone to gossip about another person? What kind of editing might have occurred to shape the story in this TV clip?

2. Tech It Up!

People not only leave traces behind in real life, they also create digital footprints every time they go online. If someone were to search for your digital footprint, what would he or she find? Now that you've practiced looking for good, neutral, and even bad traces offline, see if you can apply your skills to your digital life. Look at an online profile you have (or if you don't have your own, see if a family member or friend will let you look together at his or hers). What are the most positive aspects you see in the digital footprint? What are the neutral aspects? Are there any aspects you think might be polluting your footprint and would be less positive if another person were looking at your digital footprint in the future?

3. Common Sense Says …

If someone starts trying to cause drama or cyberbully, ignore or block that person and log off the computer, or put your phone in another room for a while. Cyberbullies are often just looking for attention and a response, so don't make them feel that their efforts have worked!