



What is YouTube?

YouTube is the self-proclaimed “leader in online video.” This web site is set up to be a user friendly environment for both viewing and sharing original video clips over the Internet. Users can upload their own videos as well as search for video clips by keyword, category or by the user who uploaded the video to the web.

What do I need to know about YouTube?

People 13 and under should have adult supervision when viewing YouTube. YouTube contains videos covering a variety of topics from math tutorials to sports and animals to music, and everything in between, including content that parents may find inappropriate. While YouTube “doesn't allow videos with nudity, graphic violence or hate,” it may be possible to find these type of videos on YouTube since it relies on users to report inappropriate content using a link found under each video clip. Users can search for videos using almost any keyword and YouTube will likely return multiple videos that can be viewed immediately. YouTube does not currently have a SafeSearch option that would allow users (or their parents) to filter out inappropriate content that they do not wish to view.

Are there any safety issues concerning YouTube?

Yes. While most of the media coverage of YouTube has focused on users who violated copyright laws by posting movies and television shows online, there are also concerns for individuals posting their original work. YouTube is a public web site and the videos posted there can be viewed by anyone around the world. Users wishing to post video clips of themselves should be sure that there is nothing in the video or audio of the clip to allow others to figure out who they are or where they live. Using names on the video as well as showing license plate numbers, addresses or even the front of a house can help other people figure out who they are and where they are located. Users should keep private information private. There is also concern about users who will videotape dangerous or even illegal activity in the hopes of getting their video noticed online.