



Data Trial – Who's Responsible?

Lesson suggestion for the subjects: Informatics / Computer Science, Media Literacy, Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education, English Language

Target group	Secondary/high school students
Topics	Data responsibility and accountability, digital platform ethics, role of stakeholders in data ecosystems, critical evaluation of real-world digital systems
Group size	1 class group (minimum 10 students)
Previous Knowledge Requirements	Basic understanding of social media or digital platforms Awareness that platforms collect and use user data Ability to partake in debating/presenting arguments
Learning Objectives from DataPro Curriculum	A.3 Evaluate Intentions behind Data Monetization - Analyse how platforms use data for economic purposes - Evaluate motivations of different stakeholders B.4 Human Rights' Awareness - Recognise responsibility in protecting privacy and rights in digital environments - Understand ethical implications of data use C.4 Information Validation - Evaluate different perspectives and arguments - Recognise bias depending on stakeholder role
Additional Specific Learning Objectives	Explain different stakeholder perspectives in data ecosystems. Argue for or against the responsibility of platforms in data misuse. Evaluate ethical responsibility in digital systems.



	Present structured arguments using evidence and reasoning.
Time frame	Two class sessions (option for 45 minute or 60 minute version)
Technical Requirements	Projector + whiteboard / smartboard Slides (for case introduction + trial structure) Role cards or printed role descriptions Whiteboard for recording arguments
Training Materials and Tools from DataPro	DataPro Assistant Data Trial: Who's Responsible? Presentation
Additional Specific Training Materials	N/A
Suggestions for Lesson Plan / Methodologies	Lesson 1: Introduction & Preparation Introduction: Setting the Scene (10 mins) Project the Data Trial: Who's Responsible? presentation. Explain that students will take part in a mock trial involving a social media platform accused of misusing user data. Before beginning the activity, check students' understanding of key concepts by asking the questions on slide 3: • What does "misuse of data" mean? • Who might be affected if data is misused? Collect a few responses. Explain that different groups (e.g. users, platforms, advertisers, regulators) have different roles and interests in how data is used online. Activity: Preparing for the Mock Trial (35-50 mins) Divide students into four groups and assign each a role: social media platform (defendant), users, advertisers, or regulators (e.g. government/data protection authority). Move to slide 4, which outlines each role and includes guiding questions. Emphasise that students must argue from their assigned perspective, not their personal opinion. Each group prepares: • their overall position



- 2–3 key arguments
- supporting examples or reasoning

Circulate to support students and prompt deeper thinking where needed. The DataPro Assistant can be used to help students with their preparation.

Lesson 2: Mock Trial

Activity: Running the Mock Trial (40-55 mins)

Begin by explaining the structure of the trial:

- **Opening statements:** Each group presents their main position to the class. Encourage students to listen actively and take notes on other groups' arguments.
- **Guided debate:** Groups question each other in a structured discussion. Students should ask their own questions first; use the prompts below if needed.
 - *Questioning the Social Media Platform:*
 Users → "How do you justify collecting and using user data?"
 Advertisers → "Why is user data important for your business model?"
 Regulators → "What limits should exist on your data use?"
 - *Questioning the Advertisers:*
 Users → "Is it fair to target people using personal data?"
 Platform → "How do advertisers influence platform design?"
 Regulators → "Should there be restrictions on your data use?"
 - *Questioning the Users:*
 Platform → "Do users have responsibility for what they share?"
 Advertisers → "Why do users keep using data-collecting platforms?"
 Regulators → "Should users be better informed or protected?"
 - *Questioning the Regulators:*
 Platform → "Do regulations limit innovation or business?"
 Users → "Are current rules strong enough?"
 Advertisers → "How could regulations affect advertising?"

Class Judgement:

Students vote on who they believe is responsible (platform, users, advertisers, regulators, or shared responsibility).

Invite a few students to justify their choices—ideally one representing the majority view and one offering a different perspective.



	Wrap-up (5 mins) Conclude by highlighting that responsibility in digital systems is often shared, but different groups have different levels of influence and power.
--	---



DataPro Syllabi | WP2

Institution	ProEduca z.s.
Project	DataPro
Dissemination level	Public
Date of Submission	June 2025
Main Authors	Pippa Thompson Lucie BrzÁková



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.