

Northstar Digital Literacy Overview

Theresa Sladek
Literacy Minnesota



Agenda



- Literacy Minnesota overview
- Northstar History and Philosophy
- Features
 - **Assessments**
 - **Instructor led Curricula**
 - **Self directed online learning**
 - **Learner Management System**
 - **Reports**

Literacy Minnesota



- A non-profit leader and a driving force behind the latest developments in literacy learning.
- Extensive direct service experience providing English Language Learning, Citizenship, High School Equivalency and Digital Literacy
- Provide statewide training to volunteers and teachers working with Adult literacy
- Nationally recognized for educational resources, advocacy and digital literacy
- <https://www.literacymn.org/educator-resources>

Northstar Digital Literacy



- Mission: To help individuals around the world master the digital skills needed to work, learn, and participate fully in daily life
- Assessments and educational tools for basic computer skills
- Used by 3053 sites in 50 states, 8 countries
- Over 7.1 million total assessments given
- Available fully in English, over ½ of assessments and practice lessons in Spanish
- Fully compatible with Desktops, Laptops, and Chromebooks

Northstar History and Philosophy



- Started at request of local library
- Standards based
- Accessible
 - Grade 4 English Reading Level
 - Web based
- National reach
- Subscription model pays for maintenance

Features



- Assessments
- Instructor-led Curricula
- Self-Directed Online Learning
- Learner Management System with Multiple Reports



Assessments



NORTHSTAR

Essential Computer Skills

- Basic Computer
- Internet basics
- Using Email
- Windows 10
- Mac OS

Essential Software

- Microsoft Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Google Docs

Using Technology in Daily Life

- Social Media
- Information Literacy
- Career Search Skills
- Accessing Telehealth Appointments
- Your Digital Footprint
- Supporting K-12 Distance Learning

Next Up

- Spanish translation of Social Media
- Windows 11

*Those listed in red are also available in Spanish

Assess Skills




NORTHSTAR


> 16. Luis needs a Spanish interpreter. Request a Spanish interpreter for this appointment.


The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for scheduling a virtual visit. At the top, there is a navigation bar with four icons: a calendar for 'Visits', a speech bubble for 'Messages', a test tube for 'Test Results', and a pill bottle for 'Medications'. Below this, a text prompt says 'Click the **Schedule** button if everything looks correct.' A light blue card displays a profile picture of a woman, 'Virtual Visit with Eve Loggins, MD', the date and time 'Monday, March 14 11:00 AM', and a camera icon with the text 'Video Visit'. Below the card, under the heading 'Language help', there is a checkbox labeled 'I need an interpreter for my appointment' which is currently unchecked. At the bottom of the card is a blue 'Schedule' button.

Visits Messages Test Results Medications

Click the **Schedule** button if everything looks correct.

 **Virtual Visit with Eve Loggins, MD**

 Monday, March 14
11:00 AM

 Video Visit

Language help


☐ I need an interpreter for my appointment

Schedule

Assess Skills




NORTHSTAR





 **NORTHSTAR**

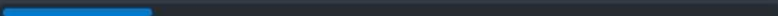
Accessing Telehealth Appointments

PUBLIC VERSION ?




> 4. The doctor cannot hear Luis! Click the button to fix the problem.



 Unmute  Stop video  Chat  Participants

4 / 21 

I DON'T KNOW



Results Page



> Your Results

You've completed the assessment! After reviewing your results, close this browser tab/window to start another module.

You Passed!

85.8%

How is my score calculated?

[Go to NSOL](#) [Claim Badge](#) [Print Results](#)

Name: Theresa Sladek
Timestamp: Aug 18 2020, 4:43 PM
Record ID: 7632709
Code: 7d26f5822d33

Correct (29 out of 34)

MASTERED SKILLS

✓ **1** Identify the different ways a person can connect to the internet.

[Practice](#)

2 Demonstrate knowledge of

[Practice](#)

Incorrect (5 out of 34)

SKILLS TO IMPROVE

✗ **5** Demonstrate understanding of how to use browser tools and settings to protect privacy (e.g., private browser windows, clearing search history, and declining to save passwords on shared computers)

[Practice](#)

Badges and Certificates



- Passing score = 85%
- Unproctored and pass
 - Digital badge (unproctored)
- Proctored and pass
 - Digital badge (proctored)
 - Certificate – printed or emailed as pdf

The power of certificates



- Prove knowledge to employers
- Confidence Building
- Persistence and Goal Setting
- Pathway to future study



Certificates



Assessment Uses



- Assess instructional needs and provide relevant instruction
- Prepare staff
- Upskill employees
- Remote proctoring available



Instructor-Led Curricula

Essential Computer Skills

- **Basic Computer**
- Internet basics
- Using Email
- Windows 10
- Mac OS

Essential Software

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Google Docs

Using Technology in Daily Life

- Social Media
- Information Literacy
- Career Search Skills
- Accessing Telehealth Appointments
- Your Digital Footprint
- Supporting K-12 Distance Learning

Next Up

- Spanish translation of Internet Basics

***Those listed in red are also available in Spanish**

Curriculum Features



- Aligned with [Northstar Standards](#)
- Easy to Use
- Learner-centered and interactive
- Independent lessons allow for flexibility of sequence



Curriculum Logistics



- 8 lesson plans per unit topic on average
- Each lesson plan is estimated to take 2 hours to complete
- Final unit project aligned with College and Career Readiness Standards
- Lessons may be adapted for one-on-one instruction
- Instructional guide for remote teaching

Each lesson includes



- Warm-up
- We will learn..... (opportunity to share student friendly objectives/purpose)
- Model and Explain
- Do It Together
- Pair Explore
- Task
- Wrap-Up
- Vocabulary Work

Internet Basics Lesson 7: Internet Privacy



NORTHSTAR

Northstar Digital Literacy Standards <i>This lesson aligns with the following standard/s.</i>	Vocabulary <i>This lesson focuses on the following digital literacy terms.</i>
5. Demonstrate understanding of how to use browser tools and settings to protect privacy (e.g., private browser windows, clearing search history, and declining to save passwords on shared computers). 6. Demonstrate understanding of when it's safe and appropriate to share personal, private, or financial information (e.g., recognizing phishing attempts, identifying unsecured websites).	history private (incognito) window secure/not secure tracking

Technology Concepts <i>Important lesson background and teaching tips for instructors</i>
In this lesson, learners will practice different ways of protecting their privacy while using the internet. They will learn about browsing history and how to open a private window that will not track history. Learners will also recognize the difference between secure vs. not secure websites. Teaching Tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet browsers use different terms for windows that do not track history. For example, Firefox calls it a 'private window,' while Google Chrome calls it an 'incognito window'. Be familiar with how to open these windows.

Teacher Prep Guide <i>Follow these steps to prepare for teaching this lesson</i>	
General Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirm how to open the history on your browser.Confirm answers for Handout C.Prepare to project Reference A and Reference B for Model & Explain 2.Prepare to project Reference C for Pair Explore.
Do It Together 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Copy Handout A for each learner.
Do It Together 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Copy Handout B for each learner.
Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Copy Handout C for each learner (half sheet).
Vocabulary Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Copy Handout D for each learner (half sheet).



NORTHSTAR

Warm Up

Find out what learners know and prime them for the work ahead.

Pair/Small Group Work (Think-Pair-Share):

→ *Directions: Give two minutes to think about questions projected on screen, then discuss in pairs for two minutes, and finally share together as a class.*

- ◆ What kinds of financial and personal information do you have to keep safe?
- ◆ What can you do to keep your personal information safe?

We will Learn...

Sharing learner friendly objectives helps set goals for today's learning.

List objectives on board or project. Read through them together to set goals for today's learning.

We will learn to:

erase your internet viewing **history** so other people cannot see the websites you have visited.

open a special **private window** to view websites with more **internet privacy**.

recognize when websites are safe to share **private** information with.

MODEL & EXPLAIN 1

Teacher models and explains (thinks aloud) to complete a digital literacy task while learners observe. To help learners focus on the demonstration, they should not work on their own computers at this time.

Internet History

- Say to learners:
 - ◆ “When you use the internet, your computer remembers, or **tracks**, every website you go to. This is called the **history**.”
- Show learners:
 - ◆ Project your screen and open an internet browser. Go to two or three well-known websites.
 - ◆ Open the **history** on the browser and show learners the **history**.
- Say to learners:
 - ◆ “Sometimes, you may want to keep your internet searches **private**. You don’t want other people to see the websites you have used. If you want, you can delete your **history**. This way other people cannot see it.”
- Show learners how to delete the **history**.
- Say to learners:



NORTHSTAR

Handout A

Private Windows

Directions: Read each situation. Give advice. Should they use a private window? Why?

1) Sam is using his home computer. He wants to buy a television for his wife for her birthday. He wants it to be a surprise.

Do you think Sam should use a private window? Why? _____

2) Deqa is at home. She wants to go to a shopping website to buy a new lamp.

Do you think Deqa should use a private window? Why? _____

3) Clara is at the library. Her child has a small rash and a low fever. She wants to search for information about these symptoms on the internet.

Do you think Clara should use a private window? Why? _____

4) Mai is at home. She is looking for a new job using her work laptop computer.

Do you think Mai should use a private window? _____

5) Tim is at the library. He is reading the news.

Do you think Tim should use a private window? _____



NORTHSTAR



Northstar Online Learning



Essential Computer Skills

- Basic Computer
- Internet basics
- Using Email
- Windows 10
- Mac OS

Essential Software

- Microsoft Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Google Docs

Using Technology in Daily Life

- Social Media
- Information Literacy
- Career Search Skills
- Your Digital Footprint

Next Up

- Spanish translation of Social Media
- Accessing Telehealth Appointments

*Those listed in red are also available in Spanish

Northstar Online Learning



- [Self – Directed Online Instruction and Practice](#)
- [Learner Dashboard](#) – learner view
- [Individual Learner Reports](#) – staff view
- [Tracks Time on Task](#)



Learner Management System



- Add Learners by staff or self sign-up
 - First name
 - Last name
 - Email address
- Bulk Creation of Learner Accounts
- Tagging Learner Accounts

Reports



- [Assessments By Site](#)
 - Summary Report – number of assessments taken per module
 - Detailed Report – number of passes by module and question

Administrative Features



- Each site has 2-3 Administrators
 - Add and delete staff/volunteers in Admin Portal
 - Set organization wide parameters for Northstar
- Staff, Proctors, and Learners
- Free advertising on Northstar homepage
- Online help desk (support@digitalliteracyassessment.org)

Contact Information



Theresa Sladek
Strategic Partnerships and Northstar Business Development
tsladek@literacymn.org

Northstar Digital Literacy Website
<https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/>



Free vs Subscription



	Free	Subscription
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 15 modules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 15 modules
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No record of achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificates and badges
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote proctoring
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual learner management system
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Reports
Curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links to external web-based digital literacy resources grouped by module, 1 curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 15 curriculum modules In person and remote teaching guides Academic based projects
Northstar Online Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 modules Cannot save progress in a lesson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 modules Individual learner management system Lesson progress save capability
Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site statistics Tagging Learner Progress