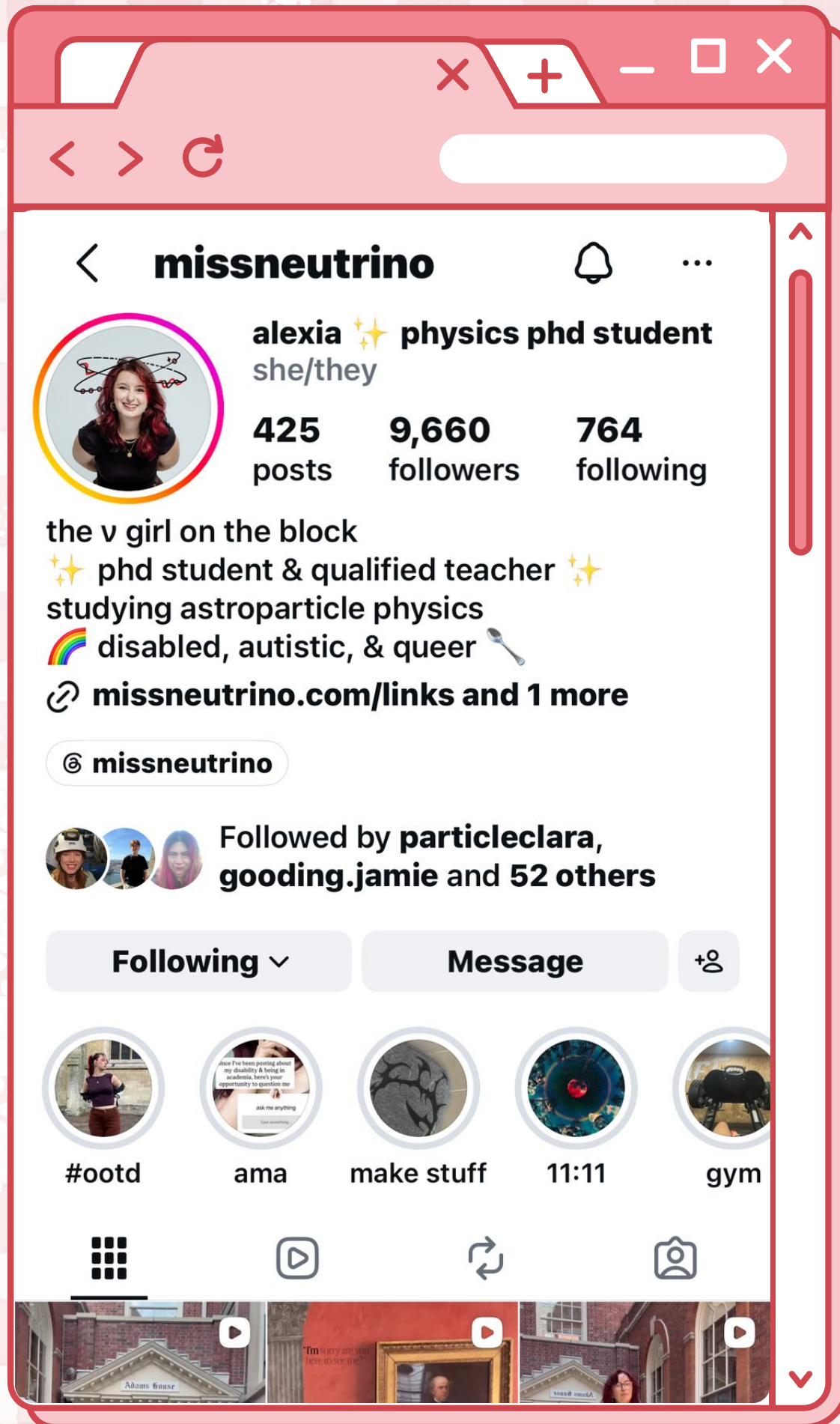
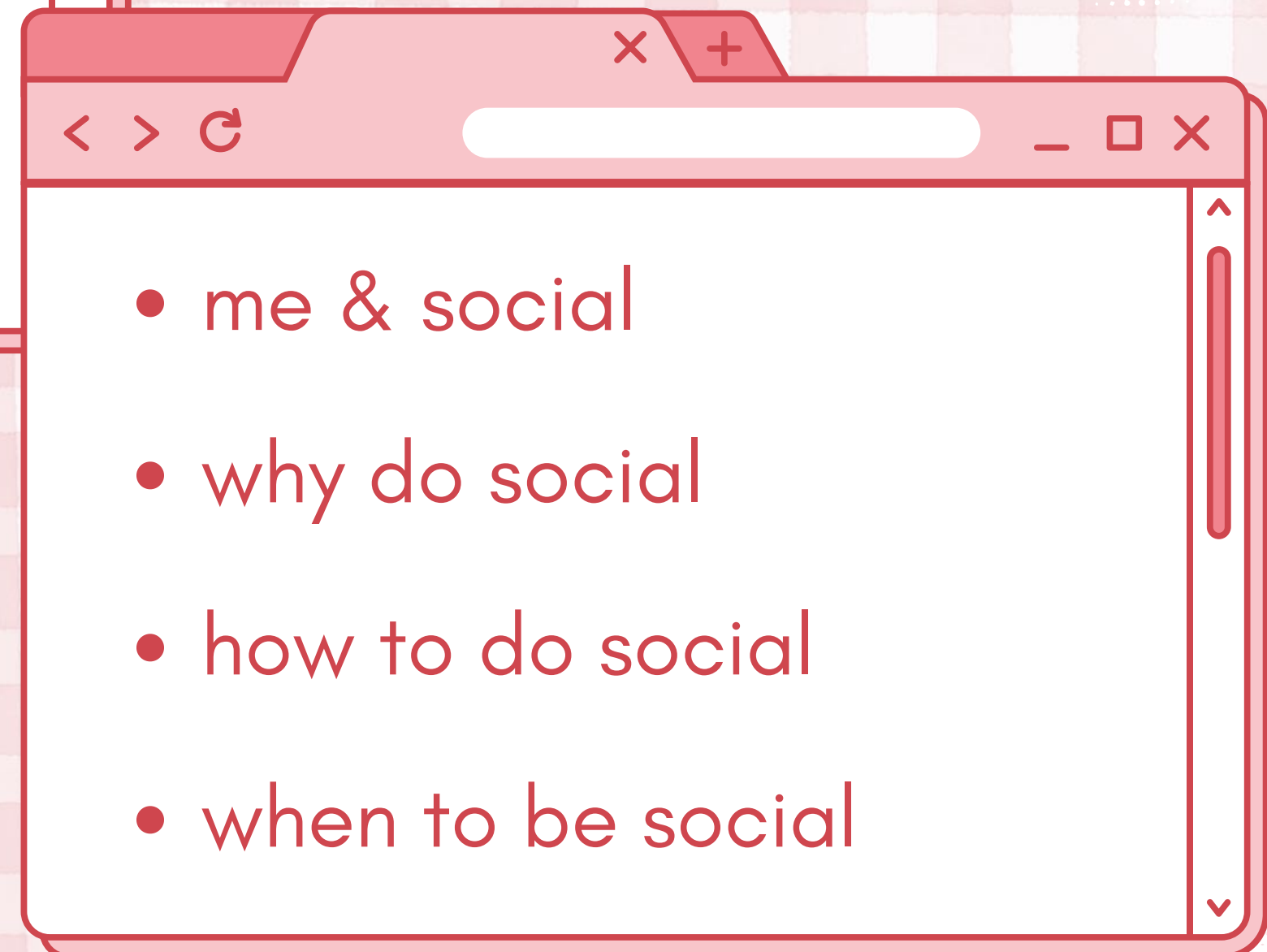
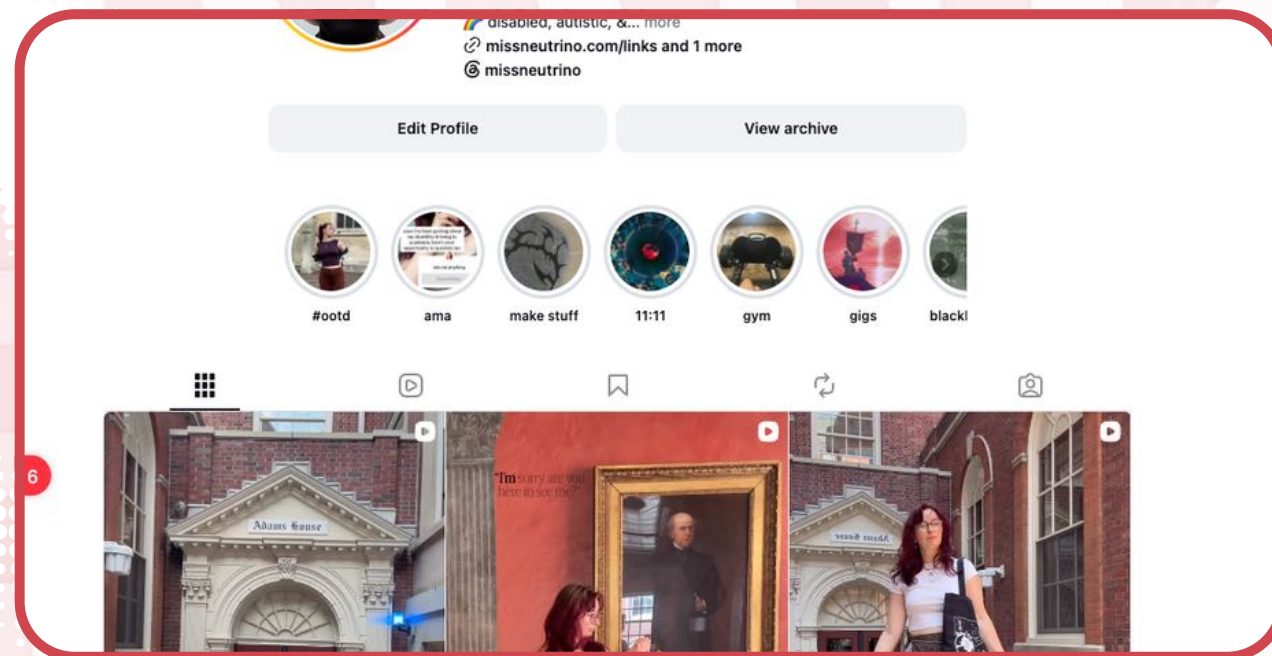




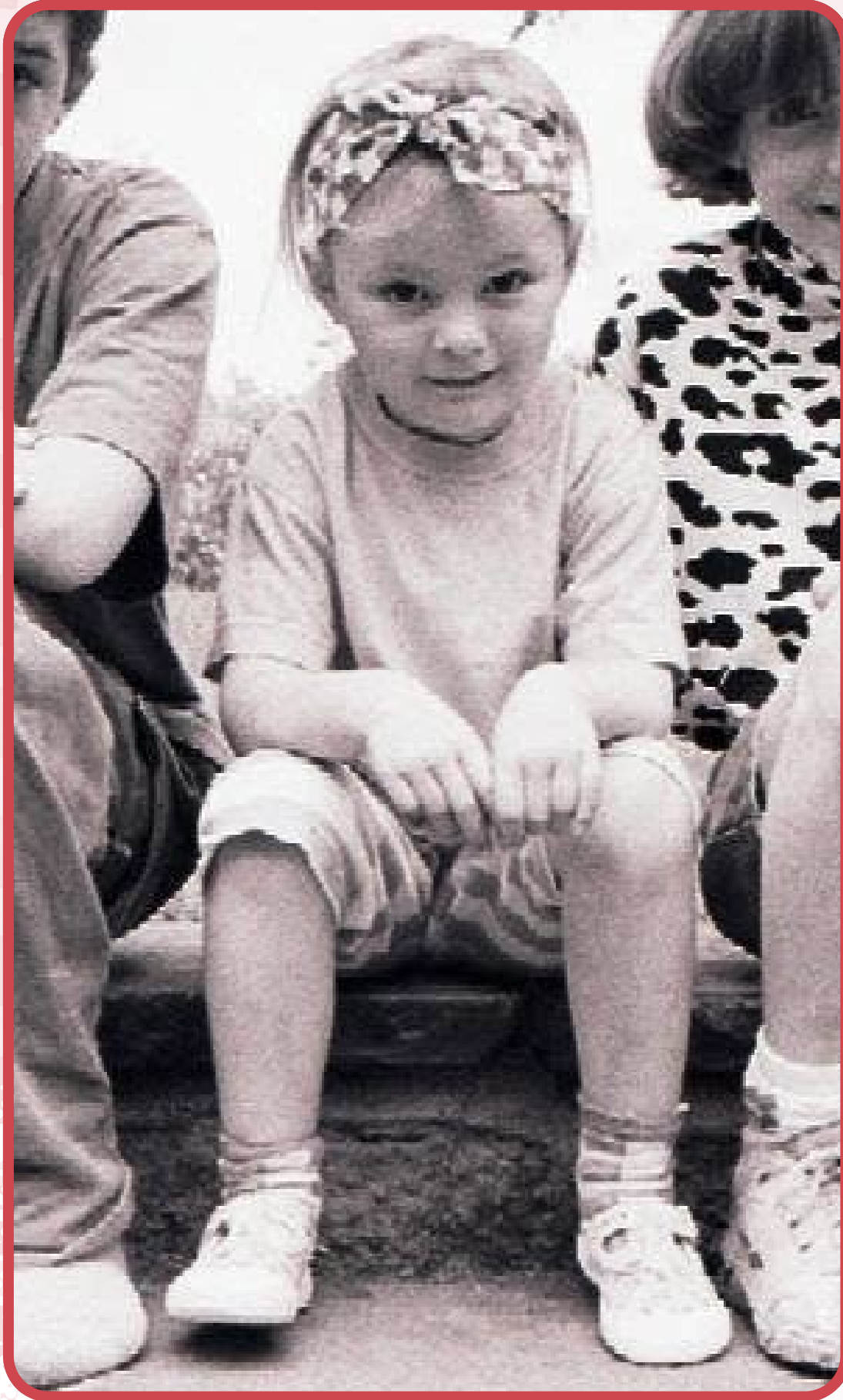


- Alexia Alexander Wight
- PhD student
- UCL
- Astroparticle physics
- Educator & scicommer
- @missneutrino









why i social

- always loved teaching & communications
- trying to create and be a part of a community
- increase visibility of people like me in STEM
- build a platform to help with my career



I started out trying to make more serious content – to educate, and use my illustration skills.



Now I focus more on stuff that's more fun*, relatively quick, and shows who I am.



or women is at parity with or not great than the number of men [2], which highlights the importance of understanding why only some disciplines suffer from gender disparities in accomplishment and retention. This is also imperative given these gender gaps come at a cost both to women who lose out on the lucrative STEM jobs and to our society as a whole because a homogenous STEM workforce hampers scientific progress and technological innovation [3].

Although contextual factors that negatively impact women's performance are well documented [4], the evidence for underlying innate ability differences in quantitative skills is scant [5–7] and even if true could not fully account for the magnitude of extant gender gaps in STEM participation. If differential ability is not to blame, what

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reviewed above suggesting that it is not role-model gender that matters as much as whether that person embodies stereotypes, these results suggest that even when an environment is replete with women, if that environment is perceived to embody stereotypes, this is problematic for women considering entering the field and has negative consequences for their sense of belonging. Similarly, Chen and Hamilton showed that perceptions of diversity are not only driven by objective inclusivity (i.e., actual numbers of minorities present in a setting) but also by psychological inclusivity (i.e., whether minorities perceive people in a setting to be socially accepting) [49]. All told, this suggests it may not be enough simply to populate STEM environments with more women. The culture of these environments needs to also shift to be openly and obviously accepting of women.

The exact mechanism linking stereotypes and decreased sense of belonging is unclear at this point, particularly given that stereotypes include both negative (e.g., socially

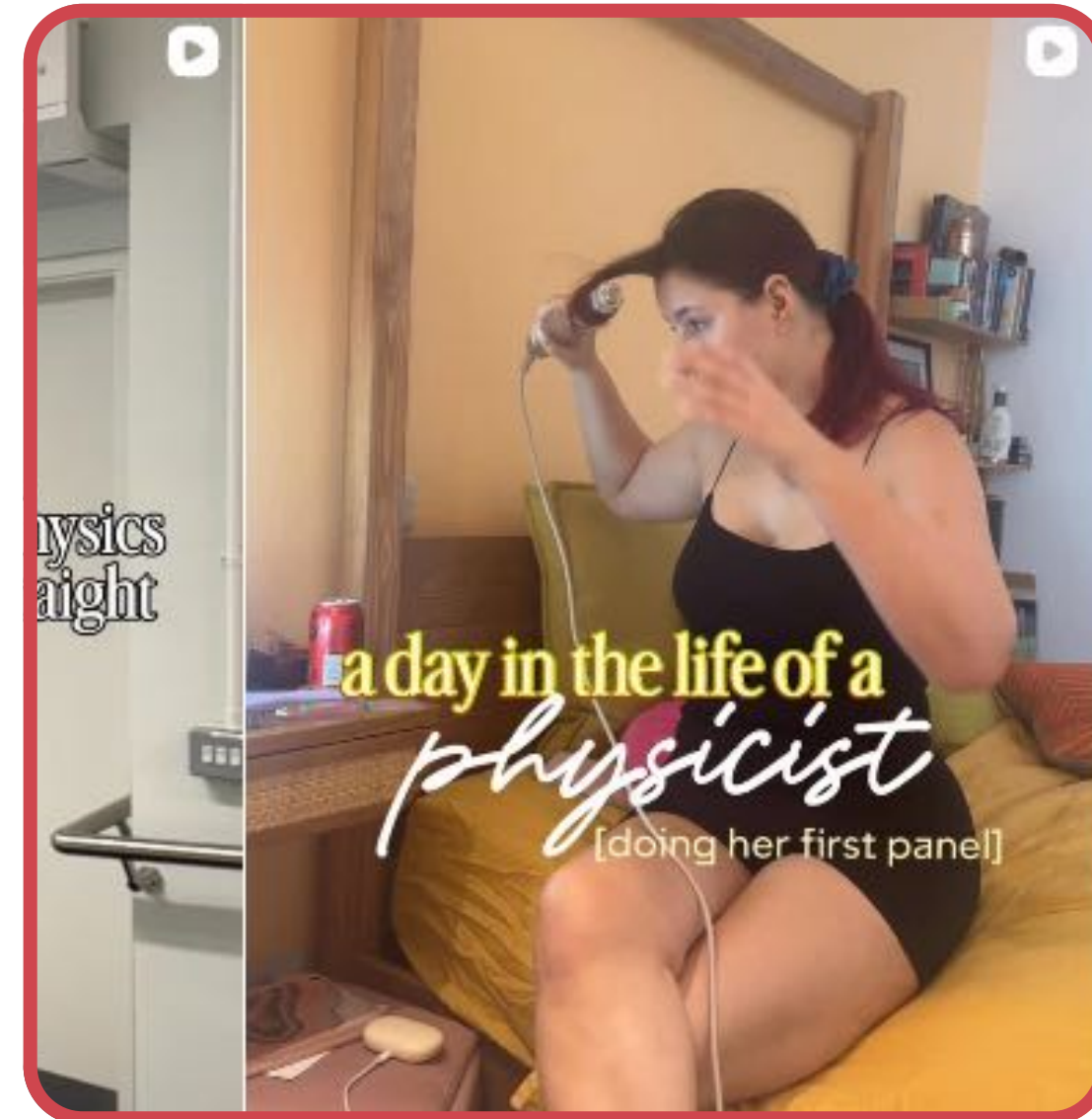
Research shows that seeing people like you in STEM makes a huge difference to your likelihood to stay in it.

*Lewis, Karyn L., et al. 'Fitting in or Opting out: A Review of Key Social-Psychological Factors Influencing a Sense of Belonging for Women in Physics'. *Physical Review Physics Education Research*, vol. 12, no. 2, Aug. 2016, p. 020110. DOI.org (Crossref), <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevPhysEducRes.12.020110>.*

social but sustainable

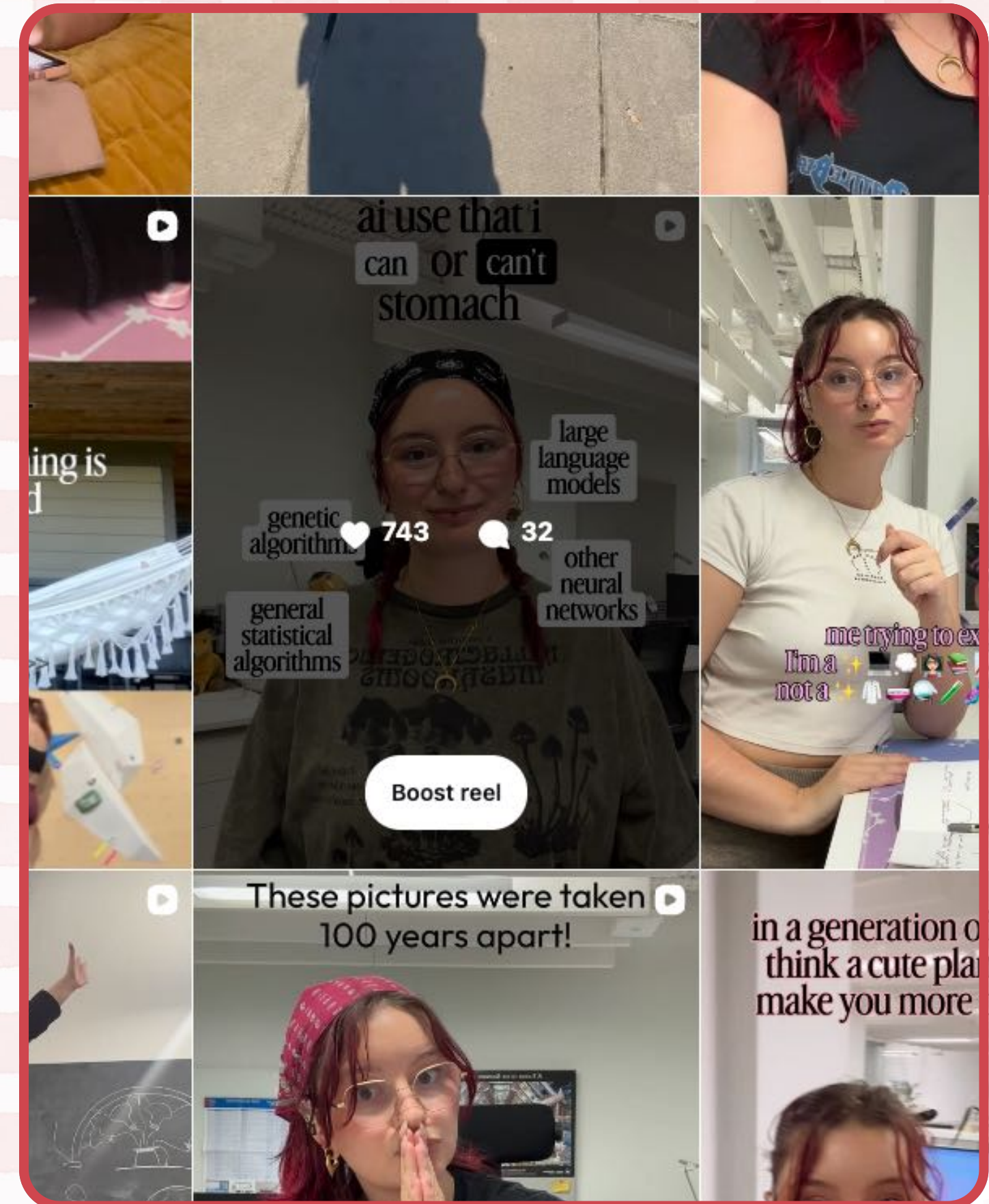
Doing lots of prep-heavy, long form content is a lot of effort – and not necessarily the best thing to do.

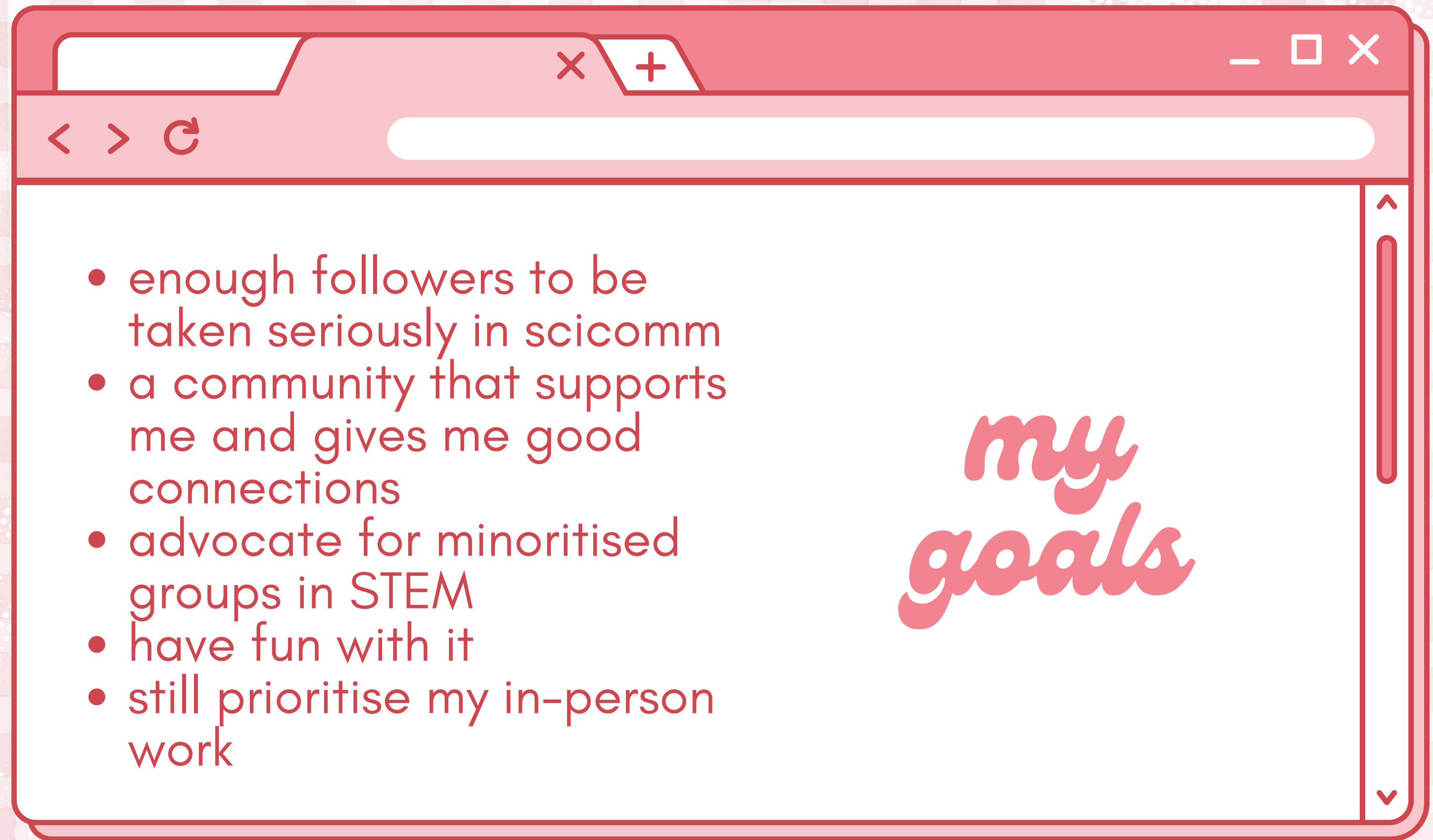
What are your priorities and goals?



- follower count?
- audience?
- impact?
- long term goals?

- <10k/10k/100k/>500k
- age/gender/education
- community/inspire/fun
- earn/network/platform

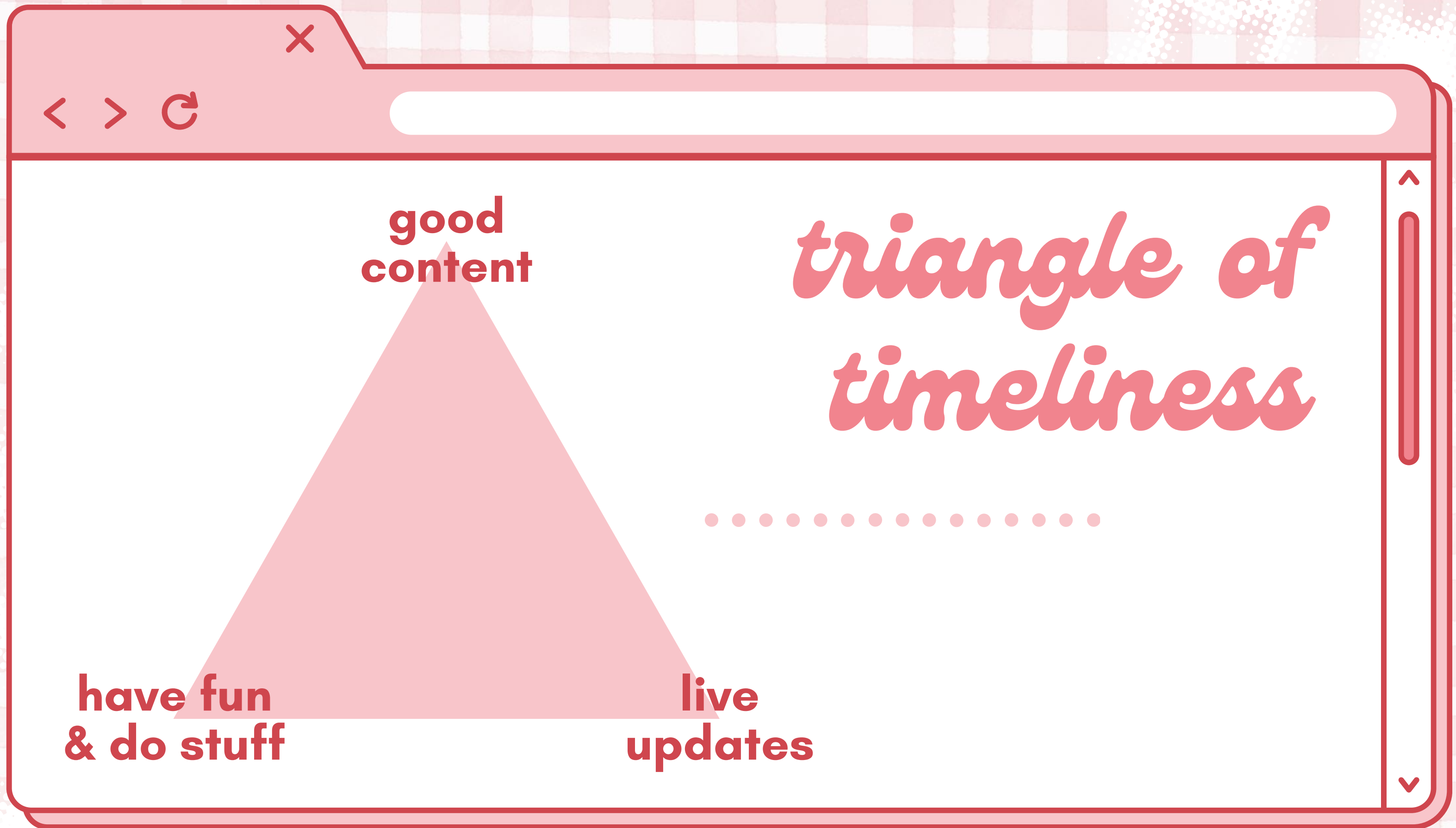




- enough followers to be taken seriously in scicomm
- a community that supports me and gives me good connections
- advocate for minoritised groups in STEM
- have fun with it
- still prioritise my in-person work

*my
goals*

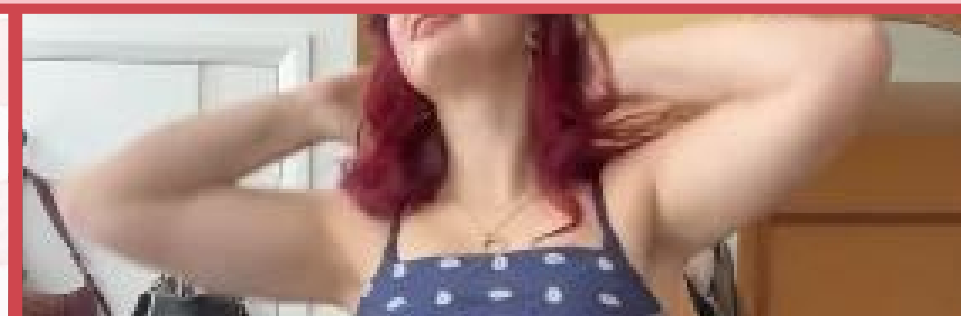






- 3–5 cohesive content pillars
- show **you**
- trial reels to try stuff
- use stories but again, keep it cohesive

good content?



quick access guide

HOW TO PROMOTE GOOD PHYSICS

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

how to communicate physics clearly,
engage your audience, and
build a following on social media

iop.org/SocialMediaGuide

CHECK YOUR SOURCES

talk to a specialist, or read
material written by one 

IT'S NOT TOO TOUGH

portraying physics as super difficult
creates barriers to inclusivity 

NO JARGON

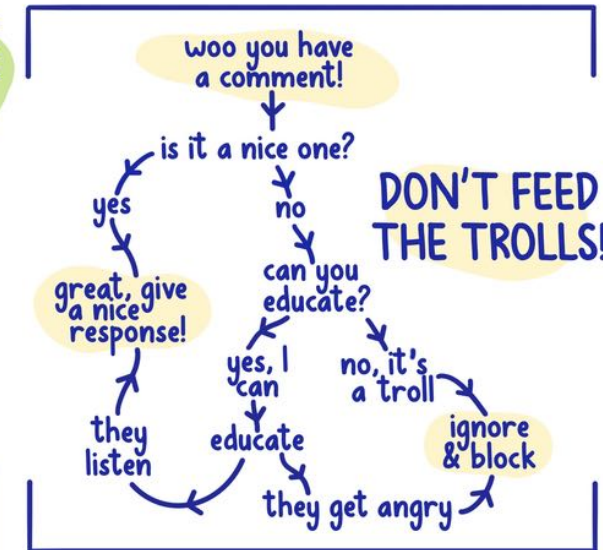
keep your language
clear & simple 

IT'S NOT MAGIC

give proper explanations for the
physical phenomena you talk about 

KEEP IT RELEVANT

make sure your explanations
capture the real world 

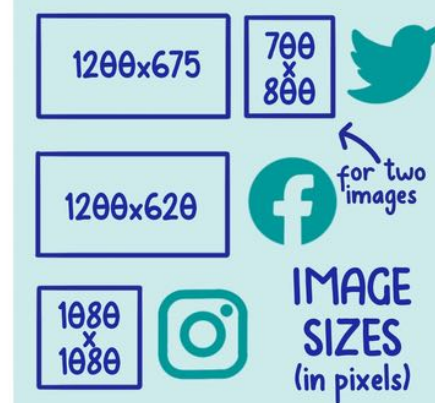


check the best times to
post for your platform 

   
elevate the
voices of
others
make sure to keep
online spaces inclusive
and showcase the
diversity of physics

Limit Less IOP Institute of Physics

The Institute of Physics is a charity
registered in England and Wales no.
295850 and Scotland no. SC040892



↑ using images and videos in
your posts boosts
shares, and increases
memory retention 

 limit
emoji use

abc x
keep text
large & clear

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

don't use special
characters or
"fancy fonts"
Nope

use inclusive
language
hey everyone

alt text
alt text, pic
& video
descriptions

 subtitles in
videos

ensure text
on images is
high contrast

use
CamelCase
in hashtags
#LikeThis

drawn by @mianuino, 2021



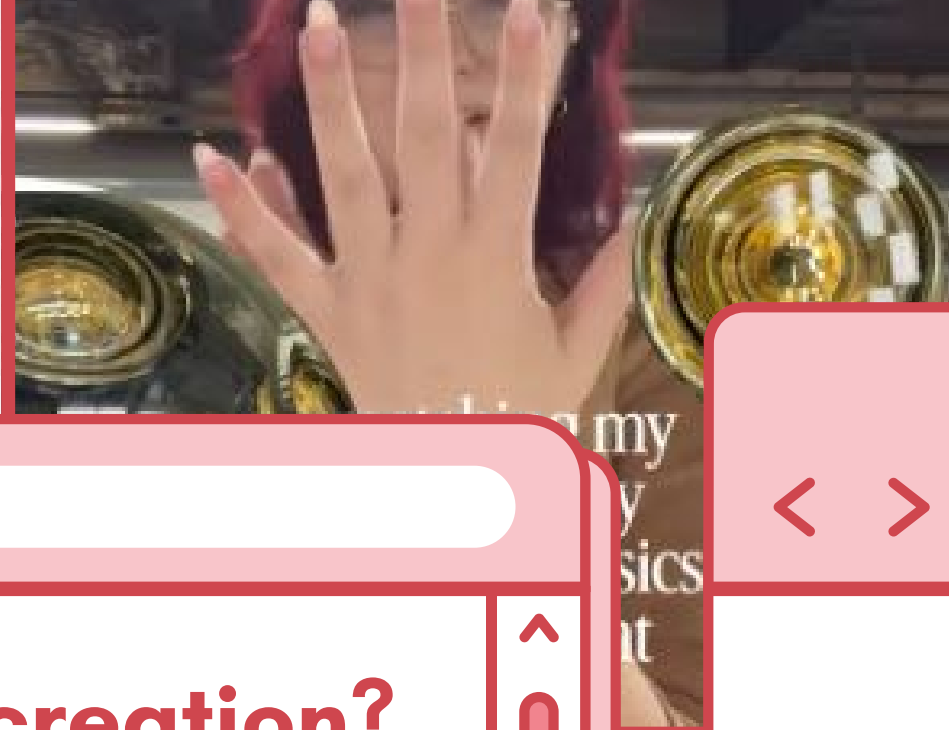
Social media for everyone

- Personal, private account to share your life with your friends (if you want one).
- Minimal online professional account for networking (can be LinkedIn, or other site).



Having a basic professional online presence can be very useful, and I highly recommend it – it's a easy way to help grow your network, and help your career.

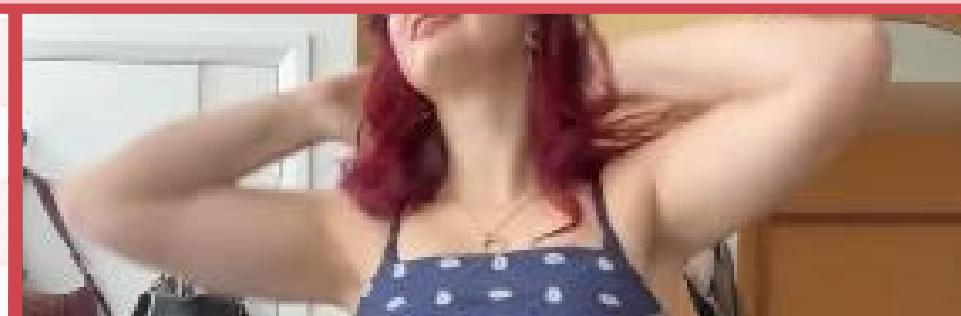
You can even be anonymous!

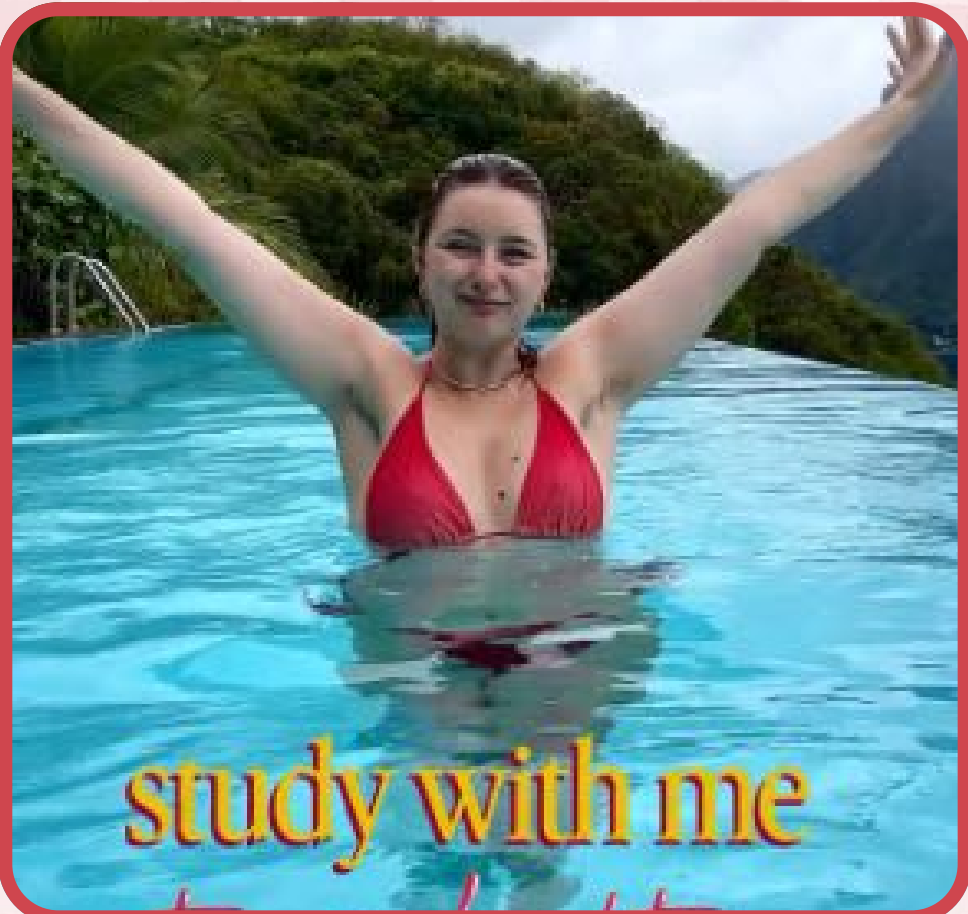
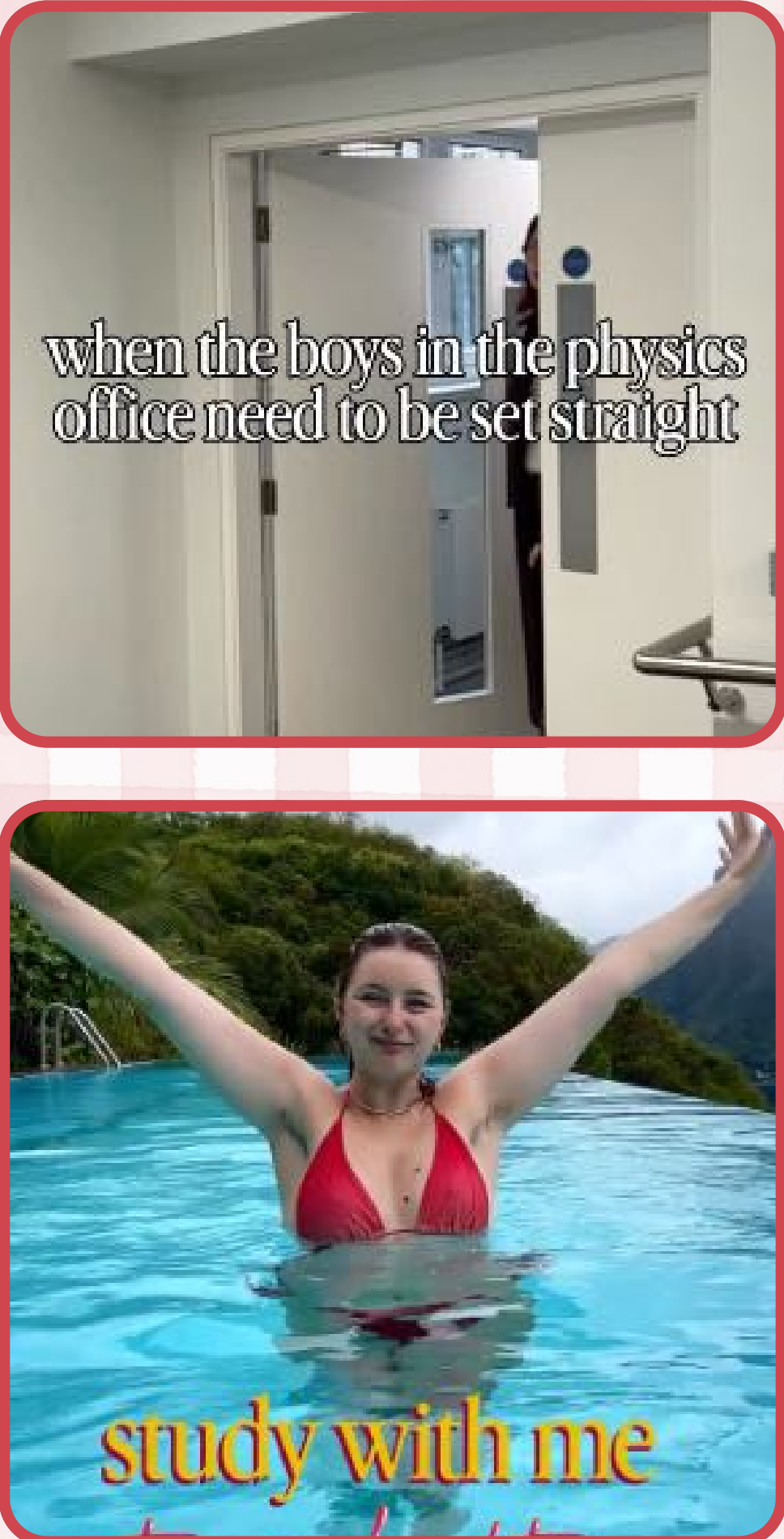


What about content creation?

- Making content to try and engage a wider audience.
- Requires you to have a public persona.
- Allows you to build and benefit from having a platform.
- Should be taken seriously!

*internet
idol*



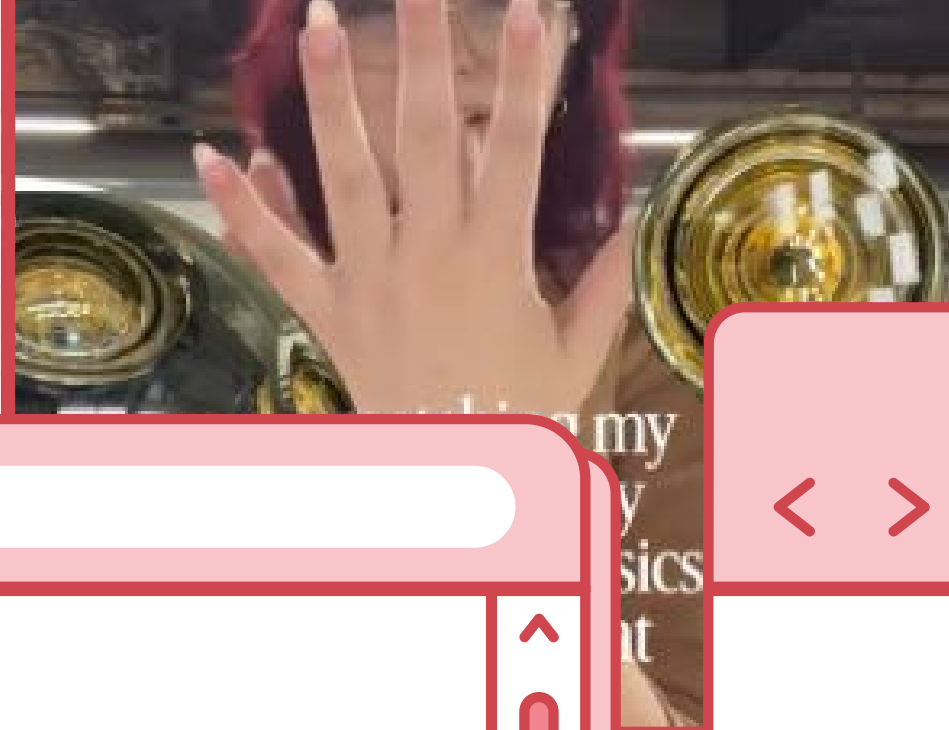


At the same time, we need to be the change we want to see in the world.

what do you want?

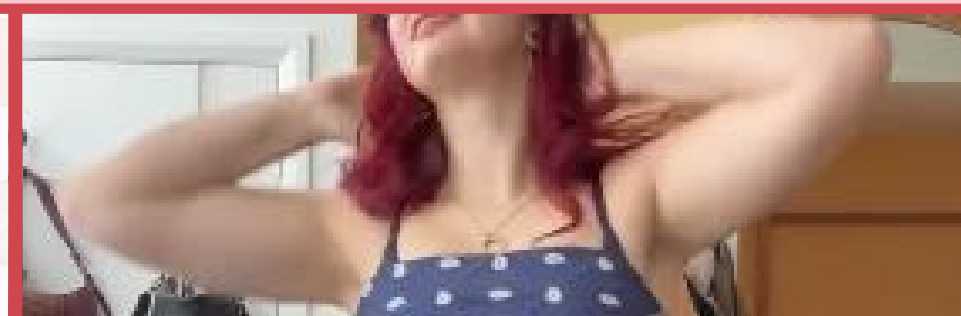
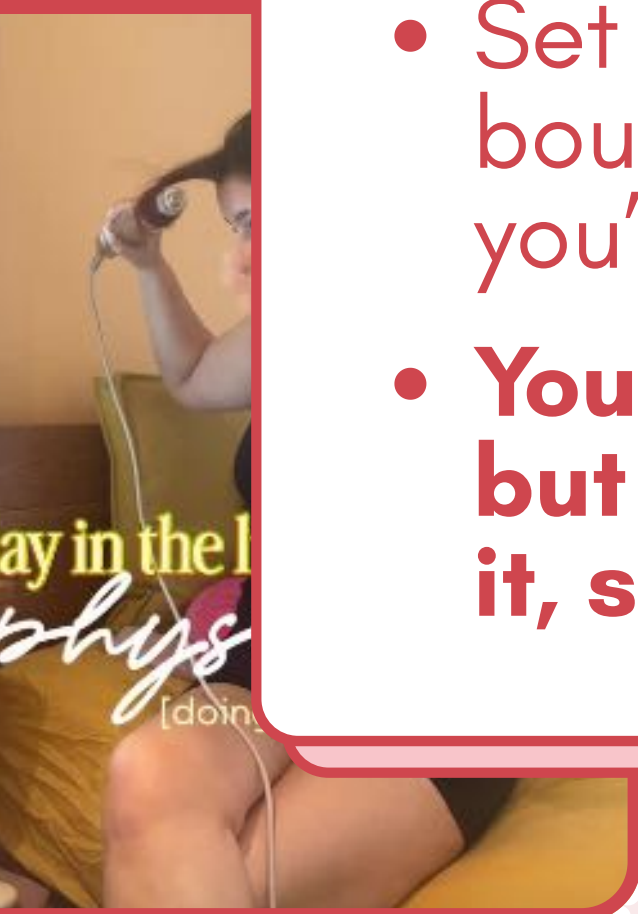
.....

- The bigger your visibility and audience, the bigger your impact.
- The bigger your visibility and your audience, the more you can be judged for it – but that doesn't mean don't do it.



- Think about your long term career plan – does social media fit into it?
- Set yourself clear boundaries around what you're comfortable sharing.
- **You may have no risk – but you can't guarantee it, so plan for it.**

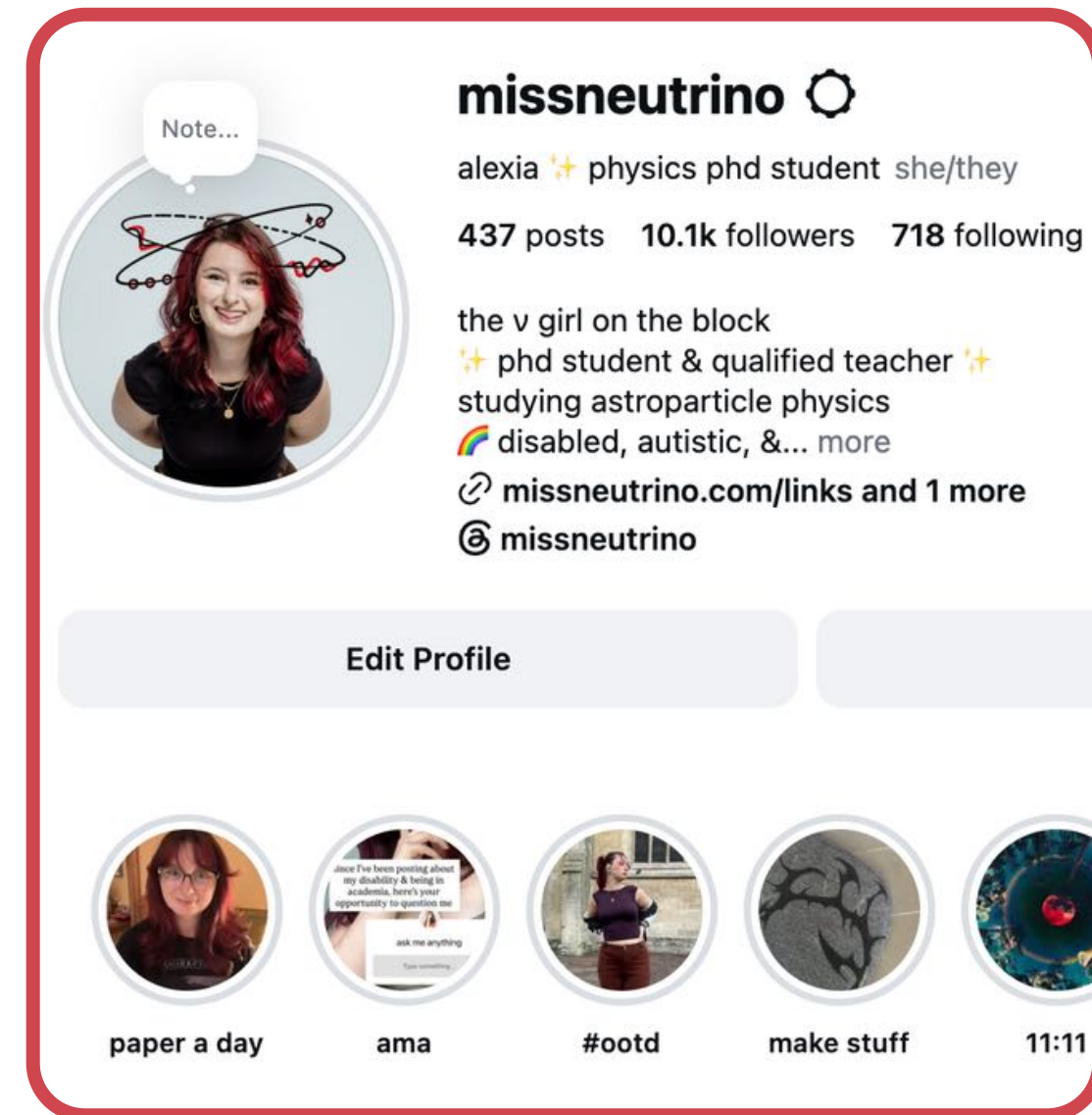
should you social?



when to step back

- follow4follow
- burn out & stress
- time vs impact
- loss of focus

Make sure content creation adds to your life, not takes from it.



The screenshot shows a social media profile for 'missneutrino'. The profile picture is a circular image of a woman with red hair, with a 'Note...' bubble above it. To the right of the profile picture, the name 'missneutrino' is displayed with a gear icon. Below the name, the bio reads: 'alexia ✨ physics phd student she/they', '437 posts 10.1k followers 718 following', 'the v girl on the block', '✨ phd student & qualified teacher ✨', 'studying astroparticle physics', '🌈 disabled, autistic, &... more', '🔗 missneutrino.com/links and 1 more', and '📍 missneutrino'. Below the bio are two buttons: 'Edit Profile' and an unlabeled button. At the bottom, there are five circular icons representing different content categories: 'paper a day' (a woman with glasses), 'ama' (a person with text overlay), '#ootd' (a woman in a purple top), 'make stuff' (a dark, textured object), and '11:11' (a clock face).

Social media can also be amazing if it's right for you! My platform has given me so many opportunities I wouldn't have otherwise had.

- connecting with and inspiring physics students
- speaking invites
- paid jobs
- building visibility





question time

thank you for listening!

feel free to come say hi*

@missneutrino

*especially to send physics memes