

Netiquette and Cyberbullying

Grade Level: K-2 | Length of Lesson: 60 minutes

Guiding Question

What is the purpose of using proper conduct in virtual spaces?

Student Outcomes

Enduring Understanding(s):

Students will understand:

- Why it is important to use proper conduct in virtual spaces
- Expectations for proper conduct in virtual spaces

Student Objectives (What Will Students Know and Do):

Students will be able to:

- Understand the meaning of netiquette and cyberbullying
- Explain the importance of using proper conduct in virtual spaces
- Create a poster to teach others about proper conduct in virtual spaces

Performance Tasks and Other Evidence of Learning:

Students will create a poster to promote proper conduct in virtual spaces.

Lesson Plan

Description

In this lesson, teachers use discussion points to introduce students to concepts of netiquette, proper online behavior, preventing and dealing with cyberbullying. Students utilize their knowledge to create a poster to help others understand these concepts.

Students may utilize digital tools or non-digital materials to create their poster based on availability and district guidelines. Teachers should refer to their own District or School's Acceptable Use Policies and guidelines regarding accessing web-based resources and digital tools before using them with students.

Warm-up



Draw a simple happy face on the board or a piece of paper and ask students what emotion the face is showing. Have students explain how they know.



Draw a simple sad face on the board or a piece of paper and ask students what emotion the face is showing. Have students explain how they know.

Talk with the students about how we can usually tell how people are feeling by looking at their faces or their bodies. Have students turn to a partner and act happy. Then have them act sad. Ask students how they would know what their partner felt if they could not see their face.

Discuss with students how when they are on the computer or on a cell phone, they cannot see the other person they are talking to. So it is more difficult to tell how someone is feeling. Sometimes, people use emoticons, or pictures of faces using symbols, to show how they are feeling. They can also use all capital letters to send a message that seems like shouting. Show students some examples such as :) or :(and writing in all capital letters.

Tell students that when they use technology, just like when they are at school, being nice to each other is important so they do not make people feel bad. Explain to students that they are going to talk about how to deal with feelings and emotions when they are communicating with people virtually. Remind students that this could mean online through the Internet, using a cell phone, tablet, or a computer.

If needed, use the discussion points found in the resources section to introduce students to the concepts of netiquette, proper online behavior, preventing and dealing with cyberbullying:

- Discuss how to be a good friend when using technology by thinking before saying or writing anything.
- Discuss being smart when using technology by telling students to tell adults when they receive a mean message instead of responding themselves.
- Discuss being safe when using technology by keeping passwords and personal information secret or only telling the information to a trusted adult.

Activity

Once the discussion is completed, have students work with a partner to discuss two things they remember about being smart and safe using technology.

As a class, create a list of rules about communicating using technology. Write students' ideas on the board or a large piece of paper. Group the ideas into rules, so that you have a list of ways to use proper conduct in a virtual space.

Have students work in small groups to create a poster that teaches others about proper conduct in a virtual space. Remind them that they may use the list that the class developed and to use illustrations. Students may utilize digital tools or non-digital materials to create their poster based on availability and district guidelines.

Hang the posters in the hall so that all students may see how to use proper conduct in a virtual space.

Modifications/Differentiation

As a class, create classroom rules about communicating using technology. Write students' ideas on a large piece of paper. Group the ideas into rules, so that you have created a list that can become a pledge that students will all sign.

Here is an example from the Attorney General's Office:

- I will tell my mom, dad, or trusted adult if someone is bothering me or calling me names while I am on the Internet.
- I will never be mean to anyone while I am on the computer. I won't call them names or make fun of them.
- I will be a buddy to anyone who is being called names or made fun of on the computer.
- I will not bully someone just because he or she was already mean to me on the Internet.

Source:

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. (n.d.). *Internet Safety Tips for Kids*.

Retrieved 2010, from http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/kid_site/documents/elementaryschool/CyberBullying.pdf

Have students write a simple message to a friend, as if they were writing an email, commenting on a social networking site, or sending a text message. Tell them it should be a kind message that would make their friend happy. Optionally, allow students time to type the message using word processing software.

Resources/Materials

Netiquette and Cyberbullying Discussion Key Points

Be a Good Friend

Ask students for examples of things that friends say to them that make them feel good. Write the statements on large paper and post in the classroom. Encourage students to use the statements when talking to their friends. If you hear students using this language, be sure to point it out and acknowledge their kindness. Talk with students about stopping to think before they say or write something to their peers.

Encourage them to:

- **Stop:** Take a break.
- **Think:** Consider how the other person will feel.
- **Act:** Say or write something that will make the person feel good.

Discuss with students for examples of things that make them feel mad. Have them make a mad face to show how being mad makes them feel. Ask them to give examples about how being mad makes their bodies feel. Ask students for examples of things they want to do when they feel mad at someone. Use the technique discussed above: Stop, Think, Act. Tell students that especially when they feel mad, they need to stop and think before they say or write something to a peer. Sometimes, people make bad choices when they are mad because they act without thinking. Tell students that sometimes, when they are mad, they might say or write something hurtful to a friend. This only makes matters worse, because it makes the other person feel bad. They might say or write something back that makes you feel bad. Then, the problem gets harder and harder to solve. Tell students to never hurt someone by writing something mean.

Remind students that if they are not sure how to handle a situation where someone has made them mad, he or she should talk with an adult. Adults can help students solve problems.

Be Smart

Discuss the following with students:

- Sometimes people will write a message to you using a cell phone, email, or an online game site that makes you feel bad. If someone does this to you, never write back. Be sure to save the message and show it to a parent, teacher, or other trusted adult. They can help you know how to deal with the situation.
- If someone is hurting your friend by writing mean messages, tell your friend not to reply to the message. Tell your friend to get help from an adult, and you can tell an adult about the problem as well.
- If someone asks you to help them be mean to another person, walk away and get help from an adult. Never help someone be mean to another person, even if your best friend is asking you to act mean.
- If you get a message or see a survey or post about someone saying something embarrassing about someone else, and it makes you feel uncomfortable or would make you sad if people were saying that about you, do not tell other students about the message, survey, or post. Instead, get an adult to help. Telling another student something you heard about someone else is called spreading rumors. Spreading rumors is hurtful to people. It can also include showing other people embarrassing pictures on cell phones, email, or Web sites.

Be Safe

Discuss the following with students:

- Since messages and pictures can be shown to others using cell phones, email, and social networking Web sites, you should be very careful about what you send using technology. If you are thinking about sending something that your parents would not like you to say or do, do not send it in a message.
- People can try to use your information online to be hurtful. They can try to act like they are you and post mean things about other people using your name. Do not give out your passwords to anyone except your parents or teachers, if it is school related, or an emergency situation in which you need help.
- People can also try to use your cell phone to pretend to be you. They might send mean or embarrassing messages. The messages will look like they came from you since they are using your phone! Do not let other people use your cell phone to send text messages or to call others, unless it's an emergency.
- Since you cannot see other people when you are communicating with them online or on a phone, you do not know if they are the person they are saying they are. You should never give out private information about yourself to anyone online. Don't tell anyone where you live or where you go to school. Do not give out your cell phone number online.
- If you see a call on your phone from a number or person you do not know, do not answer the call. If they know you, they can leave a message or contact you later.
- It is fun to send messages to your friends using cell phones, email, and social networking Web sites. You can tell your friends fun things you have done or send them nice messages that make them feel good.

Just remember—be safe and smart whenever you use technology!

STANDARDS

All curriculum found on Learning.com is aligned to applicable national and state standards. For detailed information on standard alignments, please email standards@learning.com.