Guide to Standing Up: What's Your Reputation?

Students learn how to tell when inappropriate online behavior transitions to cyberbullying.

Lesson topics include: The differences between teasing and bullying; the concept of crossing the line; strategies for responding to unwelcome contact; ways to be an upstanding citizen; information on legal issues surrounding cyberbullying; and why reputation is a person's most important asset.

Digital Lesson References

What's Your Reputation?
Consider the way you want to be viewed by your peers.
   Broken Friendship Video – www.netsmartz.org/RealLifeStories/BrokenFriendship
   You Can't Take It Back Video – www.netsmartz.org/RealLifeStories/CantTakeItBack

Things That Are Generally Okay to Communicate Online
You still need to run these through your mental filter, but most of these are acceptable.
   Friendly Texts – positive, good natured, upbeat communications (note that sarcastic
         texts don't fit into this category)
   Funny Jokes – things you'd be willing to share with your Kindergarten-age relatives
   Photos – as long as they don't reveal personal or private information
   Goofy Photos – enhanced with software (shrunken faces, drawing a mustache, etc.),
         as long as they're being sent between friends

How to Tell When Something has Crossed the Line
   Scary, Not Funny – no longer makes you laugh, but instead makes you cringe
   Feeling Upset – when you are worried about, or offended by, what you've seen
   Feeling Helpless – not being able to control the situation
   Feeling Your Reputation Might Suffer – that others might think less of you
   Feeling Worried About Personal Safety – that you are physically at risk

Things That Are Definitely Not Okay Online
   Harassment – aggressively pressuring or bothering someone
   Intimidation – frightening or overwhelming someone in order to make them do
         something
   Deception – using deceitful or fake information in an attempt to trick
   Flaming – writing or saying repeated rude remarks about someone
   Hate Speech – specifically targeting somebody for ridicule because of their race,
         gender, or sexual orientation

Steps to Take When Being Targeted by an Online Bully
   Block the Offender – prevent them from contacting you
   Contact the Social Media Provider – if they continue the bullying after being blocked
   Report the Bullying – let a trusted adult, and others, know what's going on
   Contact Law Enforcement – if the bullying involves breaking laws (see below)

When to get Law Enforcement Involved
If the bully has committed a crime, contact law enforcement.
  Threats – email, texts, or online posts that threaten physical harm
  Child Pornography – nude images of people under 18 years of age
  Stalking – harass or persecute with unwanted attention
  Hate Crimes – a crime motivated by racial, sexual, or other prejudice

Cyberbullying Resources -
Materials that focus on steps teens can take to stay safe online and limit online cruelty.
  STOP Cyberbullying – www.stopcyberbullying.org/tweens
  StopBullying.gov – www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying
  National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

---

Online Polling

Didn't get to participate in this session's polls? Cast your vote at the websites below.

How often do you see things online or by text that, in your opinion, have crossed the line? – www.bit.ly/lol3-7
In your opinion, what's the biggest reason people participate in online cruelty? – www.bit.ly/lol3-9