

Cyberbullying

Compare & Contrast

Time needed: 30 minutes

Recommended Level: Grade 5-8

Categories: Cyberbullying, Definition

Common Core Standards: Writing to convey information

Purpose(s): Students will use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the identifying factors that define bullying and cyberbullying and will put these ideas in writing.

DISCUSSION:

Guiding with "Who, what, when, where, why, how" questions, establish what students already know about bullying. (Who are bullies? What do bullies do? Where does it happen? Etc.)

ACTIVITY:

The activity can be completed individually, in pairs, in small groups, or as a whole class. Assign students in pairs or groups if applicable.

Review the concept of a Venn diagram with students.

Have students create a Venn diagram with "Bullying" on the left and "Cyberbullying" on the right.

These questions can help guide the students as they are working on creating the Venn Diagram:

1. What are some of the things that are unique about cyberbullying?
 - Accessibility: Messages can be sent and received any day or time throughout the year
 - Long-term effects: Bullying messages posted online can be very hard to delete
 - Online messages can be forwarded instantly and seen by many people, instead of just a few kids at school. Bystanders can become perpetrators if they pass on a message.
 - Anonymity: a cyberbully can hide behind fake identities
 - Invisibility: "I can't see you" lessens empathy

2. Where can cyberbullying take place?

- social media
- websites
- blogs
- IM/Chat
- E-mail
- Text messages
- Interactive games

3. What do cyberbullying and "real-life" bullying have in common?

- Bullies may say they're just teasing
- Bullying can happen at school or at home
- There are bystanders: people who see it happening but don't do anything to stop it.

When the students have completed their Venn diagrams, have each student write a sentence describing a characteristic unique to cyberbullying.

FOLLOW-UP:

Have students share their sentences with partners or with the class. Note similarities and differences between the sentences. Do others agree or disagree with their classmates' sentences?

TEACHER RESOURCES:

<http://www.wiredsafety.org/wiredlearning/CB-Methods/index.htm>