Student-Written Internet Safety Strategies

Time needed: 25 minutes

Recommended Level: Grade 5-8

Categories: Cyberbulling, Empowering

Common Core Standard(s): Writing to convey

information, Speaking & Listening

Purpose: Students will define cyberbullying and collaboratively create effective ideas to handle it.

DISCUSSION:

Discuss with the class: What is cyberbullying? How is it different than "real-life" bullying? Where can cyberbullying take place?

Use the Cyberbullying Scenarios below to discuss cyberbullying and how it can be avoided.

ACTIVITY:

In pairs, students will create three "Internet Safety Strategies" - three tips or guidelines that students should follow in order to stay safe online.

Students will share with the class.

Teacher will write these strategies down on the board as they are discussed.

FOLLOW-UP:

After all strategies are presented, the class will decide on their top 5.

Have students create posters displaying the safety strategies.



CYBERBULLYING SCENARIO #1

You are furious with a friend after hearing that he started dating your ex-girlfriend. You dig out an old photo of your friend that is very unflattering. You scan the picture and send it through email to your ex-girlfriend with a message saying, "Hope you are enjoying your new boyfriend."

1. How do you think your friend feels about this?		
2. In what way may your ex-girlfriend respond?		

3. What did you gain by doing this?

CYBERBULLYING SCENARIO #2

A group of students have created a Web site about a classmate named Brenda. Brenda is a different religion and wears long skirts daily and can't wear her hair down. This site includes stories, jokes, and cartoons about Brenda and her lifestyle. Though you don't add anything to the website, you forward this e-mail to a friend.

1. Is there anything different between being the person that created the website or the person that shared the website?

2. How can Brenda handle this situation?

3. What can you do to fix this situation?

