

Think Again

Time needed: 10-15 minutes

Recommended Level: Grade 5-8

Categories: Awareness, Bystanders, Cyberbullying

Common Core Standard(s): Speaking & Listening

Purpose: Students will understand the definition of "sexting" and how it can lead to cyberbullying.

DISCUSSION:

Due to the sensitive nature of this lesson, it is a good idea to contact parents beforehand to let them know what the class will be discussing.

Ask students: What is sexting? Why is it harmful?

Sexting refers to the sexually explicit images or text messages which are shared with others via mobile phones or the internet. Explain that the video students will watch depicts a teenage girl's experience of sexting. The video shows that once something is created in a digital format and then shared, you lose control over who sees it and what they do with it. These messages can lead to cyber bullying.

ACTIVITY:

Show the video **Megan's Story** from ThinkUKnow:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwKgg35YbC4>

Split students into groups of 3-5. Ask them to write down their responses to the following questions:

1. To what extent is sexting and pressure to share images a problem for teens?
2. What could you say to someone who asks you to share private images of yourself?
3. How is this experience going to affect Megan's life?
4. What actions could Megan take to correct/change the results of her actions?
5. What would you do if you were Megan?
6. What would you do if you saw this happening to Megan?

Lead into a discussion about sharing images and how this is cyber bullying. Discuss with students that if they share sexting images, they contribute to the problem, even though they are not the initiators. They can also get in trouble for forwarding the message or even for having it on their phones/computers.

FOLLOW-UP:

Discuss the laws associated with sexting, where they can go if they are a victim of sexting, etc.



Helping Everyone with Anti-Bullying,
Respect & Tolerance