

Would You Send It to Grandma?

Time needed: 5 minutes (Day 1), 40 minutes (Day 2)

Recommended Level: All grades

Categories: Awareness, Cyberbullying, Friendship issues

Common Core Standard(s): Writing to convey information, Speaking & Listening

Purpose: Students will understand that digitally transferred pictures can be sent to people you never intended.

DISCUSSION:

Bring in an Etch a Sketch. Show the clear screen. Draw on it and erase. Ask "Can I get back my picture?" (No - it is gone.) Are digital pictures the same way? (No - even if you erase them, the person you sent them to still has them. If you posted them on a website, millions of people could now have the picture.)

ACTIVITY:

Give each student a small, blank piece of paper. (One-fourth of a sheet works well.) Have students draw a picture of anything they choose. Have them put some sort of mark on the paper so they remember it is theirs.

Photocopy at least 3 copies of each student's drawings. (This is why they are small!)

The next day, redistribute the students' original drawings. Tell the students to throw their drawing away or to put it up somewhere safe where no one can see it.

Shuffle the photocopied drawings and randomly distribute them to students. Allow students to "trade" drawings with each other three times, or give them 5-10 minutes to freely move about the room and trade drawings as they wish.

Have students go back to their seats. Randomly select student drawings and hold them up for the class, asking questions like:

- Did anyone else get this picture of a dog?
- I traded my picture of the rainbow for this picture of a cow.
Did anyone else see the rainbow or the cow?

Ask students:

- How is this demonstration like an online picture that you forward or share?
- How was I able to see your pictures even though you threw it away? How is this like digital pictures?
- What if this picture had been something private? How would you feel to see your classmates looking at it and passing it around?
- A good rule of thumb about online posts, photos, etc. is: "If you wouldn't send this to your grandma (or someone else you care about), then don't send it." What do you think this means?

FOLLOW-UP:

Students could write an essay describing how the activity made them feel.

