



Lesson Seven: Cyberbullying

Background

Cyberbullying is a new dimension to the age-old bullying issue complicated by access to Internet communication by all ages. Experts agree, the methods of cyberbullying are limited only by the child's imagination and access to technology. And the cyberbully one moment may become the victim the next. The kids often change roles, going from victim to bully and back again. Experts also acknowledge that cyberbullying can take place off-campus and outside of school hours, often limiting school involvement, which makes education, awareness and self-responsibility particularly important.

Discussion Questions

1. In your opinion, how do most kids your age hurt each other?
2. Is bullying common in your school? Explain your answer.
3. Alison Goller says, "People at the school feel...everybody gets made fun of." Is that your experience? Explain.
4. Have you experienced cyberbullying? Describe the experience.
5. If you have experienced cyberbullying, did you tell your parents? Why or why not? Do you think this is typical for kids your age? Why?
6. Mr. Halligan says, "The middle school environment...is very toxic." Think about your middle school years. Do you agree or disagree? Why?



Vocabulary Builders

Term	Definition
Bullying	A term used to describe the act of using threats or fear (e.g., physical harm) to get another person to do something against their will.
Cyberbullying	When a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.
Bullycide	Refers to a suicide attributable to the victim having been bullied either in person or via social media.
Social Media	Refers to the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into an interactive dialogue.



Activity

Netiquette... Posts for the 21st Century

1. Begin the activity by asking students to identify Emily Post. You can share the following background, according to Wikipedia:

Emily Post was born as Emily Price in Baltimore, Maryland, into privilege as the only daughter of architect Bruce Price and his wife Josephine Lee Price of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. She was educated at home and attended Miss Graham's finishing school in New York, where her family had moved. She met a prominent banker named Edwin Main Post, her husband-to-be, at a ball in one of Fifth Avenue's elegant mansions. Following a fashionable wedding and a honeymoon tour of the Continent (1892), Mrs. Post's first home was in New York's Washington Square. The couple had two sons and divorced in 1905, because of her husband's affairs with chorus girls and fledgling actresses, which had made him the target of blackmail.

*When her two sons were old enough to attend boarding school, she turned her attention to writing. She produced newspaper articles on architecture and interior design, as well as stories and serials for such magazines as Harper's, Scribner's and The Century, as well as light novels. She wrote in various styles, including humorous travel books, early in her career. In 1922 her book, *Etiquette in Society, in Business, in Politics, and at Home* (frequently referenced as *Etiquette*) became a best seller, and updated versions continued to be popular for decades. After 1931, Post spoke on radio programs and wrote a column on good taste for the Bell Syndicate; it appeared daily in some 200 newspapers after 1932. In 1946, she founded The Emily Post Institute, which continues her work. She died in 1960 in her New York City apartment at the age of 87.*

In fact, the 18th edition of Emily Post's ETIQUETTE has just been published in October of 2011, tackling issues from texting to tweeting to iPhones to Facebook.

2. Ask students to list the etiquette or basic manners that they have heard from parents, teachers and adults throughout their life. (i.e., don't talk with your mouth full, put your napkin in your lap, send thank you notes for gifts, please and thank you.) List their responses on the board.

3. Either individually, as a group exercise or in smaller teams, ask students to become Emily Post, and create a list of at least five "Posts to Live By" when it comes to online communication – a modern day manners manual. Share their responses with the class.



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