Digital Citizenship

Online Etiquette Lesson Plan

- Grades 5-6 -

Presented by the C@P Society of Cape Breton County
# Digital Citizenship

## Online Etiquette

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Digital Citizenship – Online Etiquette

**Purpose:** As the world is becoming ever more dependent on technology and new electronic mediums of communication such as e-mail, instant messaging, and texting are becoming more popular, it is crucial that people realize that they are no longer only global citizens, but Digital Citizens as well. Over the course of the activities included in this lesson plan, students will be introduced to the concept of Digital Citizenship and the basics of online etiquette will be established, teaching students appropriate Internet behaviour through group work, individual activities, and class discussion. It is more important than ever that youth learn not only how to understand and use technology, but why it must be used properly.

**Question:** What type of online behaviour will make me a good Digital Citizen?

**Applicable Grade Levels:** Grades 5-6 (Ages 10-12)

**Subject Areas Being Taught:** Language Arts, Writing, Reading, Computer Skills

**Suggested Learning Outcomes:**
- Can explain the meaning of the term “Digital Citizen”
- Able to demonstrate an understanding of their role as a Digital Citizen
- Able to analyze the effect that their online actions can have on others
- Can decide independently which online actions are and are not appropriate

**Materials and Resources Required for Unit:**
- Paper
- Pencils
- Printed Worksheets
- Colouring Tools (Crayons, Markers, etc.)
Digital Citizen: A Digital Citizen is someone who is able to use different forms of technology, such as a computer or a cell phone, to interact well with other people in society. Just as there are rules and regulations that come along with the privileges of being a citizen of a country, there are guidelines that outline how someone should act while using technology that must be followed by those who desire Digital Citizenship. There are nine elements of Digital Citizenship: Access, Commerce, Literacy, Law, Rights and Responsibilities, Health and Safety, Security, Communication and Etiquette, the last of which is the subject of the following lesson plan.

Netiquette: Netiquette, or online etiquette, is a series of regulations by which those who use the internet abide by in order to make the internet a friendlier place. A person’s online manners as well as their respect for others are important for proper netiquette.

Chatspeak: Chatspeak is any abbreviation commonly used in chat rooms, instant messaging, or on message boards. Some examples of chatspeak are “lol” (laugh out loud), and the letters “u” or “r” (instead of “you” and “are”). While it may be okay to use these terms while chatting with friends online, it is not acceptable to use them in a scholarly or business environment.

Cyberbullying: Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over the internet or cell phone. It usually involves harassing, threatening embarrassing and making fun of young people online. Children who deal with online bullying will often feel hurt by the actions of others, which can lead to depression and low self-esteem.
Discussion Questions

Use the following questions as a guideline for a class discussion. During this activity, encourage children to think about what the result of internet bullying is and what are proper ways for people that are their age to spend their time online.

1. What do you use the internet for?
2. Do you think there are certain responsibilities that come with using the internet? What are they?
3. What is etiquette? What do you think it means to have “netiquette,” or online etiquette?
4. Are there certain things that you shouldn’t do on the internet? What are these things?
5. How does it feel to be bullied? Do you think you can be bullied over the internet?
Scenario Questions

Have children split into small groups, and encourage them to each discuss one of the following scenarios. Ask them to think about what would happen if you acted positively or negatively in the situation. If time permits, have them act out their solution to the issue presented.

1. After coming home from school one day, you log into Facebook and see that you have been invited to join a group that was created to make fun of one of the less popular kids at school. You know that if you don’t accept the invitation your friends will bug you about it. What should you do?

2. You feel as if one of your friends has not been very nice you lately, so you decide to write them an e-mail to tell them how you feel. When you re-read the e-mail, you decide that it sounds as if you’re very angry and you know that some of the things that you’ve written might hurt his/her feelings, but you still want to send it. What should you do?

3. Your favourite band, The Bloggers, have just released a brand new album. On the day it was released, you asked your parents to take you to the store to buy it and you’ve been listening to it ever since. A friend who also likes The Bloggers sends you an instant message asking you to send him/her all of the songs on the CD. Even after you repeatedly say no, they keep asking and won’t leave you alone. What should you do?

4. After logging into your instant messenger program, a friend messages you and starts saying mean things to you. It’s obvious that he/she wants to start a fight with you and is very angry about something. What should you do?

5. A friend sends you an e-mail that says some mean things about a classmate. You know that if this classmate read the e-mail they would be furious, so you consider forwarding it to them. What should you do?
Scenario Questions

Answer Key

1. Creating a Facebook group that makes fun of someone is a form of cyberbullying. You should not join. If you feel comfortable enough, talk to the friend who created the group and encourage them to delete it. If you aren’t comfortable, or the friend will not listen to you, take the issue to a teacher or parent. While all this is happening, try to be a good friend to the classmate who is being cyber bullied.

2. Sending an e-mail that has mean things in it is a form of cyberbullying. You should never send an e-mail or instant message when you are angry. If you need to get your feelings out, you can write the message, but wait at least an hour before re-reading it and deciding whether or not you want to send it. An angry e-mail could hurt the recipient’s feelings, get you in trouble, and ruin a friendship.

3. While you may be angry that your friend wants you to send them the songs that you just bought, the best thing to do in this situation is calmly explain why you do not want to send them the material. If the problem persists, talk to a parent or teacher about the issue that you are having.

4. Even though your friend is saying mean things to you, you should not respond by saying mean things back to them. If they will not stop bugging you after you’ve asked them calmly to stop being angry with you and what’s wrong, either block the person or log off of the program. If your friend keeps harassing you over the internet, be sure to tell someone that it is happening.

5. While it may not have been right for someone to send you an e-mail with mean things about another person, it is not okay for you to forward it to the classmate that is mentioned in the e-mail. The sender of the message expected that its contents would remain private, and you are obliged to not pass along the information. If the matter persists, or if you think that the sender may become violent or start harassing the classmate that they have an issue with, talk with a parent or teacher as soon as possible.
Stamp Designer

Design a stamp that will show people one of the ways in which they can act like a good digital citizen should. When you’re done, use the space below the stamp to explain what your design means.
Digital Citizenship Passport Activity

   a. Copy ONE “Passport Inside Sheet” for every student.
   b. Copy ONE “Passport Cover” for every TWO students.

2. Cut “Passport Cover” sheets in half. Fold Pieces in half.

3. Fold “Inside Passport Sheet”.


5. Fill in and decorate Digital Citizenship Passport.

6. Have fun being a good digital citizen!!