

UNIT

3

Digital Citizenship

Student Packet • Grades 6-8



common  **sense**[®]
media

Cyberbullying: Crossing the Line

Video Discussion Questions

Stacey's Story

1. *Why did the girls start to harass and threaten Stacey online in the first place?*
2. *When do you think the girls' behavior "crossed the line"?*
3. *Stacey says, "People talk really big, when there's, like, miles between you." What do you think she means by this statement?*
4. *In what ways might the online context make the situation worse than if the bully had harassed Stacey offline?*
5. *Stacey's mom says that Stacey should call the school and report the incidents. Stacey responds that it would "just make it worse." Do you think this is true? Why or why not?*

Case Studies

Read the two case studies and answer the questions with your group. Be prepared to share your responses with the class.

case study 1

Attacked from All Sides

Eric gets a lot of pressure from his parents to do well in school. Other kids in school tease him because he works so hard but still gets poor test scores. He gets instant messages and text messages during the day and at night about his poor grades. The word "loser" is in most of them, and the language becomes stronger every day. Today he received a text from a number he did not recognize, with a photo of his body with a turkey's head. A thought bubble above the picture reads: "Why am I so STUPID? What a *!*&#&*** I am." Eric thinks Alexis, the most popular girl in the eighth grade, is behind the message.

1. *What forms of cyberbullying did the students use on Eric? What is your evidence?*
2. *How do you think Eric feels? What elements of this situation make him feel this way?*
3. *Do you think Eric should tell his parents about the cyberbullying?*

4. *What qualities do you think a “trusted adult” should have? Who are these people in your life? In what ways can a trusted adult actually be effective?*
5. *If Alexis was the bully, what could school personnel, such as the principal, do or say to Alexis to make her realize that her behavior is wrong?*
6. *Have you ever been part of, or heard of, a situation similar to this? If so, share the story with the group without using names or details.*

case study 2

Election Sabotage

Tanya is pretty popular. She is running for class president. The election is a week away, and Tanya is neck and neck with Sara. Sara’s friends decide to sabotage Tanya. They create a fake social network page for Tanya. They use a photo of Tanya for her profile picture, and for her interests, they write: “partying, making fun of anything ASIAN, loving myself.” Most of the students at the school are Asian, and rumors start to spread that Tanya is a racist. As election day nears, Sara’s friends start to flame Tanya with texts that say things like “racist” almost every hour.

1. *What forms of cyberbullying did Sara’s friends use on Tanya? What is your evidence?*
2. *Do you think there is ever a good reason for impersonating someone else online or creating a profile about them?*
3. *Do you think Sara knew what her friends were doing? What is Sara’s responsibility in this?*
4. *What do you think the consequences should be for Sara and her friends if the school finds out?*
5. *If you found out about what happened, would this be a reason not to vote for Sara?*
6. *Have you ever been part of, or heard of, a situation similar to this? If so, share the story with the group without using names or details.*

Lesson Assessments

Cyberbullying: Crossing the Line

1. Every time Ricardo messes up in an online game, another player sends him several messages making fun of him. Ricardo thinks the messages are funny, until he gets one that hurts his feelings. True or false: Ricardo is being cyberbullied.

- a) True
- b) False

2. Which of the following are examples of cyberbullying? Read each answer choice, and then circle YES or NO accordingly.

a) Altering photos of friends in a goofy way, but not in a mean way	YES	NO
b) Making a physical threat online	YES	NO
c) Telling someone that you like them online	YES	NO
d) Physically pushing someone	YES	NO
e) Saying something mean about someone based on their race, gender, ability, religion, or sexual orientation	YES	NO

3. The answer choices below are examples of comments someone might say online. Each one contains words written in ALL CAPS. Which one would be considered flaming?

- a) "NO WAY! That's SO cool!"
- b) "LOL i can't stop laughing"
- c) "SERIOUSLY? NOBODY CARES. GET OUT."

Common Sense Media is committed to helping kids and families thrive in a world of media and technology.

