



Cyberbullying: You Can't Take It Back



Overview

Students watch the true story of a boy who rated girls from school on a website, thinking it was a private joke between him and his friends. Students discuss the positive and negative aspects of the Internet and offer ideas about what the boy could have done when his friends asked him to rate the website.



Materials / Preparation

- Computer lab or computer connected to an LCD Projector or television monitor
- Video - "Cyberbullying: "You Can't Take It Back"
- Large pieces of paper for each student group
- Whiteboard or chalkboard
- Attachment 1 - Student worksheet



15 minutes



Activity

Hold a class discussion about the positive and negative aspects of the Internet. Divide the board in half; list positives on one side of the board and negatives on the other.

What are some positive aspects of the Internet?

It can be used as a research tool or homework resource; it's an easy way to keep in touch with friends and family; you can access legal multimedia (video and music) and news.

What are some negative aspects of the Internet?

There is no way to know who you're talking to; once you post something online or send an e-mail you can't take it back; anyone can read or see anything you post.

Discuss safety issues with putting classmates' pictures and other information online. Some safety

issues include that you never know who is looking at this information, why they are visiting the site, or how they might use the information they find.

Watch "Cyberbullying: You Can't Take It Back."

Discuss with students what the boy should have done when his friends asked him to rate the website. Challenge students to try to think of legitimate responses he could have made that might have made his friends also reconsider their actions. You might want to put students in groups for this part and have them write possible answers on large sheets of paper (which they will then present to their classmates) in order to increase student participation.



Follow-Up

After the discussion, have students make Internet awareness posters to be displayed at the local middle school (attachment 1).



The Internet is a great tool. But it can also be dangerous.

In a group with two or three classmates,
design a poster to be posted at the local middle school to
encourage students to think before they act online.

Use this sheet to brainstorm ideas. Incorporate some of the points raised during
your class discussion about the positive and negative aspects of the Internet
and safety issues to consider when posting information online.