

Introducing students to digital citizenship

What is digital citizenship?

The concepts behind digital citizenship are the safer, more responsible and appropriate use of technology and devices.



Class discussion: digital civility

You can use Microsoft's four tenets of digital civility to start the conversation with your class. Do they agree with the statements? How might they practice these behaviors?



Live the golden rule

I will act with empathy, compassion and kindness in every interaction, and treat everyone I connect with online with dignity and respect.



Respect differences

I will appreciate cultural differences and honor diverse perspectives. When I disagree, I will engage thoughtfully and avoid name calling and personal attacks.



Pause before replying

I will pause and think before responding to things I disagree with. I will not post or send anything that could hurt someone else or threaten my safety or the safety of others.



Stand up for myself and others

I will tell someone if I feel unsafe, offer support to those who are targets of online abuse or cruelty and report activity that threatens anyone's safety.

Class discussion: empathy and resilience

What is empathy?

Empathy is about being able to put yourself in someone else's shoes and think about how a situation might make them feel.

And what about resilience?

Resilience is all about taking back control of your emotions. Being resilient can help you bounce back when bad things happen online. There are lots of situations where it's completely valid to feel sad, angry or frustrated. But being resilient can help you not turn a bad moment into a bad day.

How can we best respond to 'drama' online?

Say you're on your favorite app and someone posts something about your best friend. Before you respond, think about who has posted and where they might be coming from. Ask yourself why they might post it. What were they thinking or feeling?

Next, think about how you could respond. Is anything you post going to change their mind, or might it just add to the drama? Think about putting your phone down and go for a walk, hang out with a friend, or chat to your family – and see if that helps to put it all in perspective.

Quiz

Page 2 of this document features a short quiz. Use it as a departure point to see how much students understand or as a summative assessment to see how much they have learned. Answers are below so that they do not appear on the sheet.

1. Respecting differences, pausing before replying and living by the four tenets
2. Offer support to those who are targets of online abuse or cruelty. Report activity that threatens anyone's safety.
3. Take a breath before responding. Try seeing the situation from their point of view.
4. Try to put things in perspective. Work to understand and take control of your emotions. Put down your phone and spend time with your family.
5. Avoid name calling and personal attacks. Engage thoughtfully.

Being a good digital citizen

How respectful and empathic are you?

1. Which one of the following makes a good digital citizen?

- Making sure you remember all your login details
- Ignoring or avoiding any bad behaviors online
- Respecting differences, pausing before replying and living by the four basic tenets of digital civility

2. Which two of the following actions can you help stand up for others?

- Delete any app where people post comments you don't like
- Offer support to those who are targets of online abuse or cruelty
- Report activity that threatens anyone's safety
- Tell your friend to harden up and get over it

3. What are two things you could do if you see a post or comment you don't agree with?

- Take a breath before responding
- Tell all your friends to block the person on your social apps
- Try seeing the situation from their point of view
- Quickly comment with an angry face emoji to let them know they've upset you

4. Which three of these actions can help you to be more resilient?

- Suppress and ignore your emotions
- Try to put things in perspective
- Avoid any situation that is tough or stressful
- Make mean comments on other people's posts before they do it to you
- Work to understand and take control of your emotions
- Put down your phone and spend time with your family

5. What are two ways you can respect differences of opinion?

- Ignore any perspectives that are different to yours
- Avoid name calling and personal attacks
- Engage thoughtfully