



Four Corners – To Report or Not to Report

For Grades 3-5

Objective

Students will determine which online behaviors should be reported or ignored. After completing the exercise, students will discuss why they chose to report or not to report an incident online.

Required Materials

Signs labeled “Yes/Always,” “Maybe,” “Don’t Know/Need More Information,” and “No/Never.”

Instructions

Set up four corners of a room or field:

The first corner is YES/ALWAYS

The second corner is MAYBE

The third corner is DON’T KNOW/NEED MORE INFORMATION

The fourth corner is NO/NEVER

Post a sign to identify the corners.

Tell students that you will read a statement describing a situation that might happen online and ask the students to move to the corner of the room or field that indicates what they would do in that situation.

Read each statement and ask the youth if in that situation they would report the incident to the social networking site, chat room moderator, or a parent, or block the user from contacting them. Statements should be read quickly so that students make their own decision of how to respond without having time to change their decision in order to follow their peers.

Each student decides what they believe is the correct answer and moves to stand in that corner of the room.

After completing this exercise, use the discussion questions that follow to debrief.

Statements

1. A stranger instant messages you asking a/s/l (age/sex/location). Do you respond?
2. A friend of a friend sends you an inappropriate photo. Do you report it?
3. A friend's e-mail is hacked and you start receiving spam messages. Do you contact the e-mail provider?
4. Someone you met online asks you to MIRL (meet in real life) or meet F2F (face to face). Do you respond?
5. A classmate who is always putting you down sends a rude comment about you via instant message. Do you respond?
6. You receive a mass e-mail floating around school with a rumor about a classmate. Do you forward the e-mail to all of your friends?
7. A friend tells you that someone she doesn't know is messaging her and saying things that are scaring her. Do you tell your parents? Do you encourage her to block the sender?
8. You are on Skype, Web chatting with your grandma, when a message filled with profanity pops up. Do you report the user?
9. While playing Xbox Live, another user starts making threatening comments. Do you report the user?
10. You receive a text with an embarrassing photo of a classmate. Do you forward the picture to your friends?

Discussion

After completing the exercise, ask the students why they chose not to report certain incidents.

How do they respond when something online makes them feel uncomfortable?

Have they ever used the reporting function on a social networking site like MySpace or Facebook?

Do they know that when they make a report, their identity is kept anonymous?