



Four Corners – To Report or Not to Report

For Grades 6-8

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 on Facebook sends you a photo that violates the site's policy. Do you report the incident to Facebook?
3. A new girl in school sends you a friend request. Do you accept?
4. A friend on MySpace repeatedly sends you suggestive messages. Do you change your privacy settings so this individual cannot access your profile/send you messages?
5. Your mom sends you a friend request. Do you accept?
6. Your best friend sends you a nude or suggestive photo of their girlfriend/boyfriend via e-mail. Do you respond?
7. A friend on MySpace's site is hacked and you start receiving spam messages and wall posts. Do you contact the site?
8. Someone you met online asks you to MIRL (meet in real life) or meet F2F (face to face). Do you respond?
9. A classmate who is always putting you down posts a rude comment on your wall for everyone to see. Do you respond?
10. 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?
11. You receive a friend request from someone you do not recognize on a social networking site. Do you accept?
12. A friend tells you that a DOM (dirty old man) is messaging her and saying things that are scaring her. Do you tell your parents? Do you encourage her to block the sender?
13. You are on Skype, Web chatting with your grandma, when a message pops up saying IPN (I'm posting naked) or IFOCN (in front of camera naked). Do you report the user?

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?

Students should report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or scared online. They can tell a trusted adult and use the reporting function for the site they are using.