Web Activity – How Photos Can Spread on the Internet

For Grades 6-8

Objective

Students understand how photos posted online can spread without their permission.

Required Materials

1 ball of yarn

Instructions

The class should sit in a circle either on the floor or in chairs.

The facilitator chooses one student to be the subject of the photo.

The facilitator gives the ball of yarn to the student who is the subject of the photo.

The facilitator can begin by discussing a photograph that this youth has posted online on a social networking site.

While holding on to one end of the yarn, the subject of the photo passes the ball to a fellow student, indicating that the student has access to their social networking profile and can see the photograph.

The student unravels enough yarn to stretch between him- or herself and the facilitator, and while holding on to the yarn, throws the remaining ball of yarn to another student indicating that they sent the photo to that student and can say whether they would send the photo via text, e-mail or social networking site.

The process continues with students passing the ball of yarn (while holding on to a piece of the yarn) until everyone is holding on to the yarn, forming a web.

While students are holding on to the yarn, the facilitator can start a conversation about the activity.

To emphasize the interconnectedness amongst the group, the facilitator can pull on the starting thread and everyone's hand will move.

Discussion

Once the web is complete, the facilitator can emphasize how one photo posted online or sent via text or e-mail can be shared among multiple people without the individual in the photo's knowledge or consent.

Discussion Points:

- How many of you post photos online?
- Where do you post photos? (Social networking sites, blogs, Web sites, send via e-mail, text.)
- Do you tag yourself or friends in photos online?
- For the subject of the photograph:
    - Did you send the photo to everyone in the group?
    - To whom did you agree to send the photo?
- Did anyone think of not passing the yarn? (Not sharing the photograph?)
- Did anyone think of asking the subject of the photo for permission to share the photo?
- What kinds of photos should you post online or send?
- How can you know to whom your picture is forwarded? (You can't.)

Be a responsible digital citizen – don't forward or share photos without permission, be mindful when tagging individuals in photos online, and report inappropriate photos.

Everything you post online, whether it be pictures, text, etc., is PUBLIC.

Once released, you cannot completely remove the photo or control where it ends up.