

cyber-



bullying

Cyber-Bullying

Identify Problem: Technology can be a very useful tool if used appropriately; unfortunately it has created a new vehicle for bullying which can reach larger audiences and for infinite periods of time. Back in the old days of messages on the bathroom wall, such postings could be painted over. Because it allows one to bully without face-to-face interaction, sometimes the offense is much more severe. The intent is clearly to threaten, mock and intimidate. Cyber bullying can follow teens indefinitely. Studies suggest that more than 42% of kids have been bullied while online.

Exercise: What can you do if someone is bullying you on-line? Divide the group into two teams. Explain that you will read responses to the question “What can you do if someone is bullying you on-line?” Each team will get a turn to decide whether their statement is an effective response. Give time for discussion.

- Ignore emails, messages, or postings that use harmful language - T
- Respond to the e-mail telling the bully that you are going to report to the police - F
- Do not forward bullying messages to others – T
- If threat of physical violence, obscene material is involved or if physical harassment is taking place it is appropriate to get law enforcement involved - T
- Ignore emails, messages, and postings from known bullies - T
- Block the addressees of known bullies – T
- Create a negative web page to target known bullies - F
- Show the messages to trusted adults, including parents, teachers or counselors -T
- Don’t tell anyone and more than likely it will go away – F
- Report immediately – T
- Delete all messages, shut down the computer and then tell an adult - F

Identify Skills:

- Students will learn to report cyber-bullying to the appropriate people.
- Students will learn which incidents need to be reported to law enforcement.
- Students will learn not to tolerate or encourage on-line bullying.

Source: Teresa Willie