



BEING SAFE ON THE INTERNET

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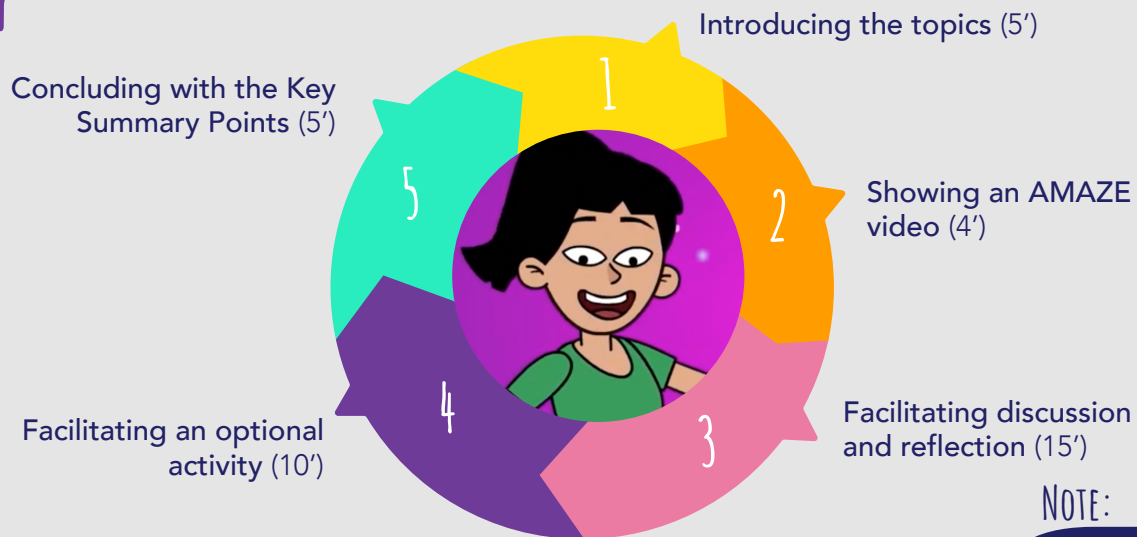


OBJECTIVE:

To provide young people with an overview of cyberbullying and internet safety by showing an AMAZE video and facilitating a discussion and opportunity for reflection.



CORE STEPS:



NOTE:

These are the suggested approximate duration times for each step.



TARGET AUDIENCE:

Young and middle adolescents aged 10 - 18 years old



DURATION:

30 - 40 minutes



ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

- Video link: <https://bit.ly/safeoninternet>
- For the in-person activities, you will need:
 - Computer with internet access and speakers
 - LCD projector and screen, or table to put your computer on
 - Sticky notes, paper board/flip chart, and colorful pens for Discussion and Reflection
- For the virtual option, you will need:
 - Zoom/Google Meet access
 - Google Jamboard for Discussion and Reflection



OPENING:

Being connected to your friends, family and everyone else online can be awesome! But nothing we do online is really private, including emails, text messages and even the apps you use on your own phone. Now, let's watch this AMAZE video to learn about internet safety.



DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

After showing the video, lead a discussion using the following questions. Pace the discussion according to the available time and prioritize the questions you want to discuss.

1. What was it like to watch this video? What is your initial reaction?
2. How easy or difficult can it be to decide what information to share or not share? What feels safe and what feels unsafe online?
3. How would you define "cyberbullying"? What are some things you've heard about cyberbullying?
4. What suggestions do you have to reduce instances of cyberbullying?
5. What are your key takeaways from this video and discussion?

NOTE:

Encourage contributions from participants, but it's okay if some are not comfortable speaking - don't force anyone to answer if they don't want to. You can also consider using sticky notes or a Google Jamboard so participants can write their thoughts anonymously.

DO!

- Respect participants' opinions
- Practice active listening
- Use inclusive and gender-neutral terms
- Give everyone a chance to respond or share
- Remind participants to be respectful of others and practice active listening

SPECIAL NOTE FOR PEER EDUCATORS

- This discussion may trigger trauma in participants who are currently or have previously experienced cyberbullying. Be sure to let them know that they can talk to you after the session and be prepared to provide referrals to a counsellor or health services as needed.
- Be prepared to respond to participants who may begin to disclose personal experiences during the discussion or point out perceived perpetrators by acknowledging what they've shared and letting them know where they can seek support, including a trusted adult.
- Be attentive to participants' special needs. Some participants may need special arrangements to be able to engage in discussions or activities. For instance, you can adjust the physical space to accommodate participants with limited mobility or modify the activity to require less movement.





OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

This activity provides an interactive way for participants to further reflect on the information shared in the video.

Explain to participants that you will be playing **Agree or Disagree**. Tell participants to position themselves in a line facing the same way in the middle of the room and that you will be reading several statements. If they agree, they should move forward a step; if they disagree, they should move back a step. If conducting the activity virtually, consider using the **Raise Hand** feature on Zoom for participants to indicate that they agree.

Agree or Disagree statements:

1. The internet is supposed to be used freely, so sharing personal stories or information on social media platforms is okay.
2. Someone is sending threatening messages to your friend. Since you think your friend is being cyberbullied, you would encourage them to talk to a trusted adult.
3. Someone is sending threatening messages to your friend in their social media platforms. The best thing for them to do is respond and engage to fight back.
4. It's okay to meet in person someone you've only met online, even if you've been communicating with them for a long time.

After reading each statement, ask for a few volunteers to share why they agreed or disagreed.

Thank participants for engaging in this activity, and conclude the activity by sharing the Key Summary Points.

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

Cyberbullying involves the posting or sending of electronic messages, including pictures or videos, aimed at harassing, threatening or targeting another person.¹



HOW TO REDUCE INSTANCES OF CYBERBULLYING?²

1. Adjust social media settings so that only the people you select are able to see your personal information and posts. It's important to check these privacy settings frequently, because sites sometimes change their policies.
2. Think before you post.
3. Don't reveal identifying details about yourself, like address, phone number, school, credit card number, and other personal information, online.

1. United Nations. (n.d.). Bullying and cyberbullying | UN special representative of the secretary-general on violence against children. United Nations. Retrieved November 29, 2022, from <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/content/bullying-and-cyberbullying-0>

2. Preventing cyberbullying. Delete Cyberbullying. (n.d.). Retrieved November 29, 2022, from <https://www.end-cyberbullying.net/preventing-cyberbullying>



KEY SUMMARY POINTS:

Remember to make sure that you are aware that nothing we do online is really private, including emails, text messages and even the apps that we use in our gadgets before you decide to post or share anything on your social media platform. The good news is that you are in control of how much or how little to share with friends, networks and the world and there are actions that you can use to stay safe.

If someone you met on the Internet makes you uncomfortable – stop communication immediately and tell a trusted adult. It's best not to meet with someone in person if you only met them online, but if you do, meet in a public place and bring a friend.

If you get threatening or intimidating online messages, or find someone shares your picture or personal data without your consent, you are being cyberbullied. If you realize that you, or someone else you know, is being cyberbullied – it's always better to block, delete, or ignore bullying messages, rather than keep responding to them. If that doesn't work, or if it's a threat – get help from a trusted adult.



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