



Activity: Knowledge vs. Wisdom

Topics included: Freedom of Speech and laws surrounding Freedom of Speech related to technology

PLEASE BE AWARE: THIS LESSON MAY CAUSE YOUTH TO THINK ABOUT A SITUATION THEY HAVE ALREADY EXPERIENCED OR ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING. IF THEY HAVE HAD A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE AS OUTLINED BELOW, THEY MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE TOLD A PARENT. PLEASE BE OBSERVANT AND NOTICE ANY CHANGES IN APPEARANCE, BEHAVIOR, OR MOOD.

ANNOUNCE THAT YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO TALK PRIVATELY AFTER CLASS WITH ANYONE THAT NEEDS HELP. TALK WITH ANY STRUGGLING STUDENTS PRIVATELY AND ASSURE THEM YOU CAN HELP. ALWAYS REFER STUDENTS TO THE APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATOR IN THE SCHOOL TO HELP THE STUDENT AND ALWAYS NOTIFY A PARENT.

Lesson Overview:

This lesson is designed to inform students about the speed at which technology advances, assist students in being “wise” about technology use and outlines legal issues when technology is used inappropriately, as related to freedom of speech.

Key Ideas:

- A. Having the knowledge and ability to use technology doesn’t mean you have the wisdom to use it appropriately
- B. Types of “speech” that could potentially cause a person legal consequences

Instructional Activities:

Instructor: Discuss integrity

Integrity is defined as doing the right thing even when no one is watching. When you post something on social media, many people are watching, but if an authority figure isn’t watching, do you still act with integrity? Do you act differently online when your parent isn’t “watching” or viewing what you share?

There is a difference between knowledge and wisdom. You all have the knowledge to use technology better than most adults because you grew up with it from a very young age, but do you have the wisdom to use it appropriately? Wisdom is gained through experience, having knowledge and using good judgment.

What are some examples of wisdom you've gained that you didn't have in elementary school? (Examples may include how to get prepared for the first day of school, how to include others who are being bullied, etc.)

Having a trusted adult to discuss issues with also assists in gaining wisdom. Who are some of your trusted adults?

It's important to use wisdom and integrity while engaging with technology because there can be legal consequences relating to freedom of speech and what's covered by this right when associated with social media.

Types of speech that could garner legal consequences:

- **Terroristic threat**

Terroristic threat is defined as a threat to commit any crime of violence with intent to terrorize another or a threat that causes an evacuation of a building, place of assembly, or facility of public transportation

Resource: <https://blogs.findlaw.com/blotter/2016/10/is-it-illegal-to-threaten-someone-online.html>

- **Hate speech**

Hate Speech is defined as abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice against a particular group, especially on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation.

Resource: <https://www.freedomforuminstitute.org/first-amendment-center/topics/freedom-of-speech-2/internet-first-amendment/hate-speech-online/>

- **Harassment**

Harassment is defined as Cyber harassment or bullying in the use of email, instant messaging, and derogatory websites to bully or otherwise harass an individual or group through personal attacks.

- **Obscenity**

"Obscenity is famously hard to define, but in general refers to content that strongly offends the prevalent morality of the time."

Resource: <https://www.freedomforuminstitute.org/first-amendment-center/topics/freedom-of-speech-2/adult-entertainment/pornography-obscenity/>

Knowledge Check:

Place the following items in the correct category on the graphic organizer below.

- Posting a Bomb threat
- Posting a video of someone shoving food in their mouths on a person's page who you believe is overweight
- Superimposing a burning cross in a photo of a house of an immigrant
- Sharing an embarrassing photo of a classmate you don't like with others
- Threatening bodily harm to someone
- Using a symbol to terrorize someone
- Posting an Ethnic slur
- Repeatedly posting or texting "you're a loser, no one likes you."
- Threatening to set a building on fire
- Using coded language
- Sending derogatory, offensive or inappropriate content to a person
- Creating a fake account to impersonate someone
- Making a derogatory comment about a group of people because of religion
- Sending threatening emails
- Spreading a rumor via text

<u>Bullying</u>	<u>Hate Speech</u>
<u>Terroristic Threat</u>	<u>Obscenity</u>

Resources:

- Online Limits to Free Speech
<https://www.freedomforuminstitute.org/first-amendment-center/primers/free-expression-on-social-media/>
- What Does Free Speech Mean?
<https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/about-educational-outreach/activity-resources/what-does>

Instructor: After completing the activity above, ask:

What should you do if someone sends you one of the above?

1. *Show your parents*
2. *SAVE IT!*
3. *Notify someone in authority (teacher, counselor, principal, etc.)*
4. *Block sender*

Resource: <https://cyberbullying.org/standing-up-to-cyberbullying-tips-for-teens>

Social-Emotional Learning:

- How do you feel when you see bullying or threatening behaviors toward you or someone else?
- How do you feel when you see hateful language about yourself, others, or a group based on a characteristic (like race, gender, etc.)?

Assessment Questions:

- A. How could you tell if you were sent a threatening message?
- B. What is a potential legal ramification for posting hate language?
- C. Who could you go to for assistance if you see something that is concerning to you?

Shape the Sky Resources:

- Pledging to Safeguard for Security- <http://www.shapethesky.org/pledge/>
- Technology Contract between youth and parents:
<http://www.shapethesky.org/technology-contract/>
- Cyberbullying resources <http://www.shapethesky.org/cyberbullying/>

Additional Resources:

- Where to report online abuse:
<http://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline#collapseHowtoPromotetheCyberTiplineonYourWebsite201906130048>
- Resources on Revenge Porn: <https://cyberbullying.org/revenge-porn-research-laws-help-victims>