



CYBERBULLYING:

BROKEN FRIENDSHIP 1

High School

OVERVIEW

Students watch the story of a girl whose best friend gave out her E-mail password to some other girls at school without her knowledge. Students respond to a letter from someone about an experience on the Internet.

PROGRAM GOAL

Enhance the ability of teens to recognize why it is important to keep online passwords private.

INTERNET SAFETY MESSAGE

I will keep my identity private.

I will never respond to any online communication that makes me feel uncomfortable.

MATERIALS

- computer lab or computer connected to an LCD projector or television monitor
- "Cyberbullying: Broken Friendship" vignette
- large pieces of paper for each student group
- "Dear Compy" handout (attachment 1)

TIME

15 to 20 minutes

ACTIVITIES

Watch "Cyberbullying: Broken Friendship."

Have students respond to one of the letters on the handout (attachment 1).

After the students have written their response letters, split students into groups of three or four. Assign groups so that students are with other students who responded to the same letter. Give each student group a large piece of poster paper. On the paper, have them list the best parts of each of their responses. They should list at least one item from each student in the group's letter.

Post the completed posters around the classroom and discuss.

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ATTACHMENT 1

HANDOUT

Dear Compy is a teen advice column specializing in netiquette. Students take turns every month responding to Compy's letter. You have been asked to write this month's response; your editor has provided two letters for you to choose from. You have to choose which letter you want to respond to, as Compy only responds to one letter per column. You should be sympathetic to the writer's problem but you also need to make sure you give the advice that he or she needs.

[LETTER #1]

DEAR COMPY,

I've had the same best friend since preschool. We have never had a major fight or anything to break us apart. But now my friend has done something that I don't think I can forgive her for. Christine (not her real name) gave my E-mail password to this group of girls at school that I call the "beautiful people." They are gorgeous and popular, but they are also pretty mean. They used my E-mail account to send disgusting messages, supposedly from me, to every boy in school. Now I can't even walk down the hall without people laughing at me. What should I do?

-BETRAYED

[LETTER #2]

DEAR COMPY,

I need your advice. I have a great best friend who I've known forever. She's fun to hang out with and we always share everything. Now I have to make a choice. There is a group of really popular girls at school. They have promised to let me into their group, but on one condition. I have to give them Michele's (not her real name) E-mail password. I know Michele would be pretty upset if I did this, but I am desperate to be popular for once in my life. What could they do with her E-mail password anyhow? I'll just tell Michele to change it after I give it to them anyway. Please help!

-UNDECIDED