



Middle School Engagement- Grade 6

Protecting Yourself from Online Predators

PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION IS THE SOLUTION

Connect for Freedom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to providing free **online safety** and **human trafficking awareness** materials to education stakeholders.



Lesson

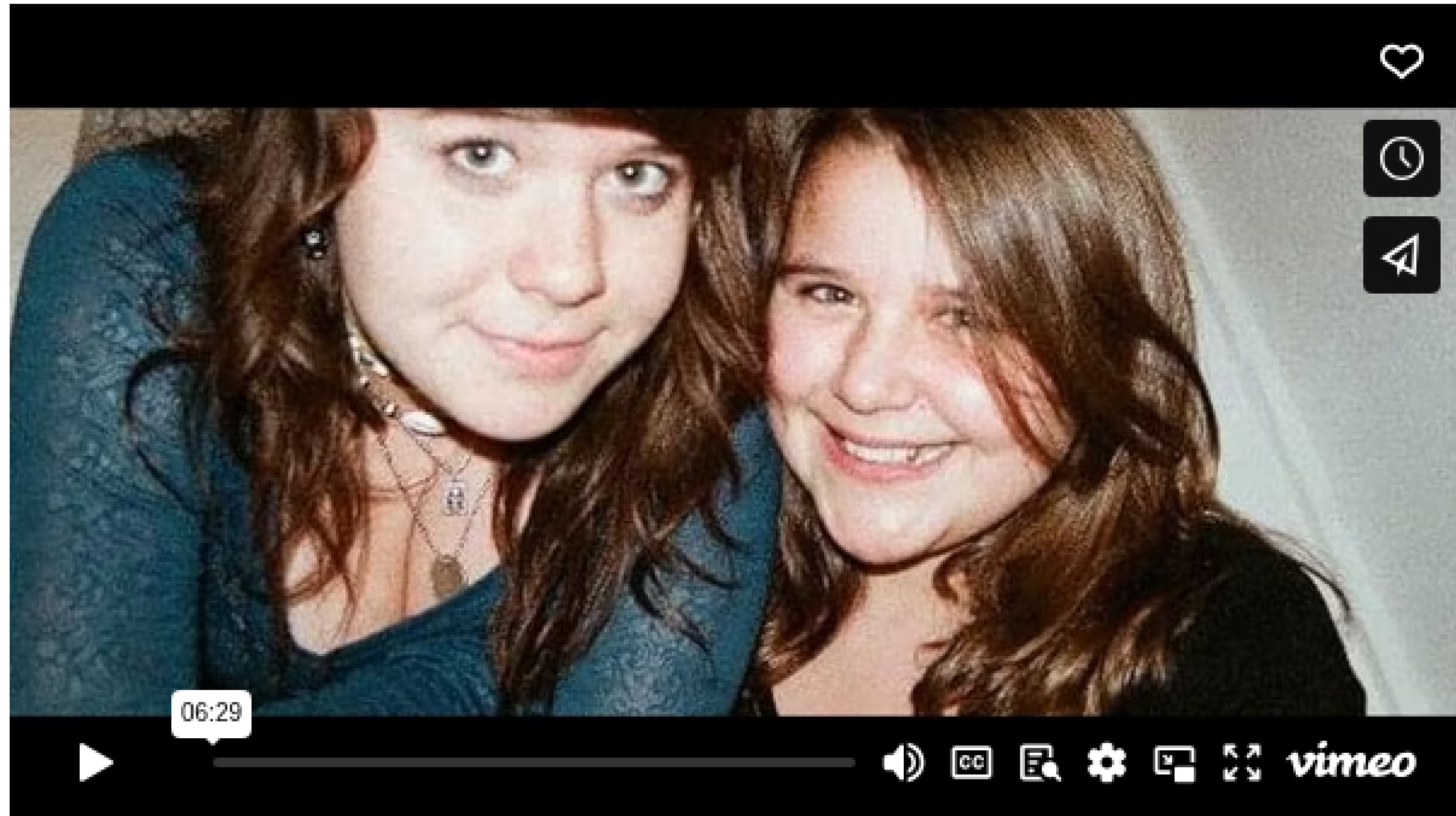


Protecting Yourself from Online Predators

Lesson Outline

1. Auroris Media "Sextortion Module 2" Video (6 min.)
 - Discussion Questions
2. Vulnerabilities Offenders Prey On
3. Online Red Flags
4. Auroris Media "Sextortion Module 3" Video (6 min.)
 - Discussion Questions
5. Privacy Suggestions
6. Additional Reminders
7. NCMEC Handout: You Sent a Sext
8. Activity

Auroris Media “Sextortion Module 2” Video



Source: <https://vimeo.com/718061896>

Duration: 6:29 minutes

Auroris Media “Sextortion Module 2” Discussion Guide

Click [here](#) to access Auroris Media and NCMEC “Sextortion Module 2” Discussion Guide and questions.

Vulnerabilities Offenders Prey On



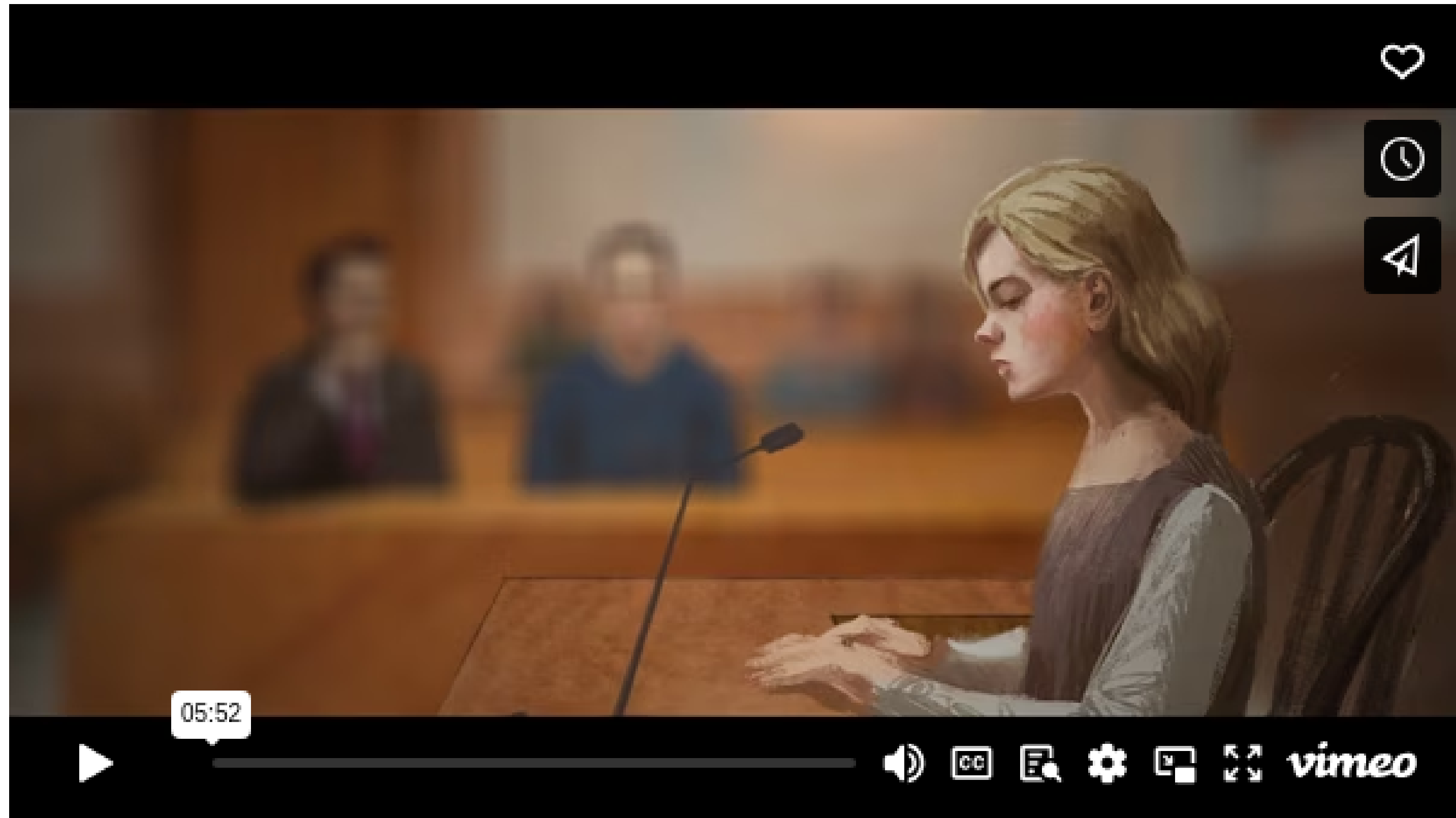
- Lack of supportive family and friends
- Familial history of abuse, addiction, or mental health issues
- History of running away from home
- Financial instability
- Low self-esteem
- History of trauma
- Involvement in child welfare or juvenile justice system
- Nonacceptance of sexual orientation

Red Flags Online



- Asks you personal questions
- Initiates conversations about sex and intimacy
- Sends you inappropriate pictures
- Asks for pictures of you
- Makes you feel uncomfortable
- Tries to meet in real life
- Wants to follow all your social media accounts on multiple apps
- Gets mad at you if you're not online
- Isolates you from your friends and family
- Talks badly about other people in your life

Auroris Media "Sextortion Module 3" Video



Source: <https://vimeo.com/717550746>

Duration: 5:52 minutes

Auroris Media “Sextortion Module 3” Discussion Guide

Click [here](#) to access Auroris Media and NCMEC “Sextortion Module 3” Discussion Guide and questions.

Privacy Suggestions



Have a different password for each account.

Use privacy settings.

Choose carefully who you friend.

Limit access to your location.

Look for the lock symbol or “https”.

Don't share any personal information online.

Don't share passwords.

Don't share or forward explicit content.

Additional Reminders



Take screenshots of anything that looks or feels dangerous.

Block individuals who exhibit inappropriate or predatory behavior.

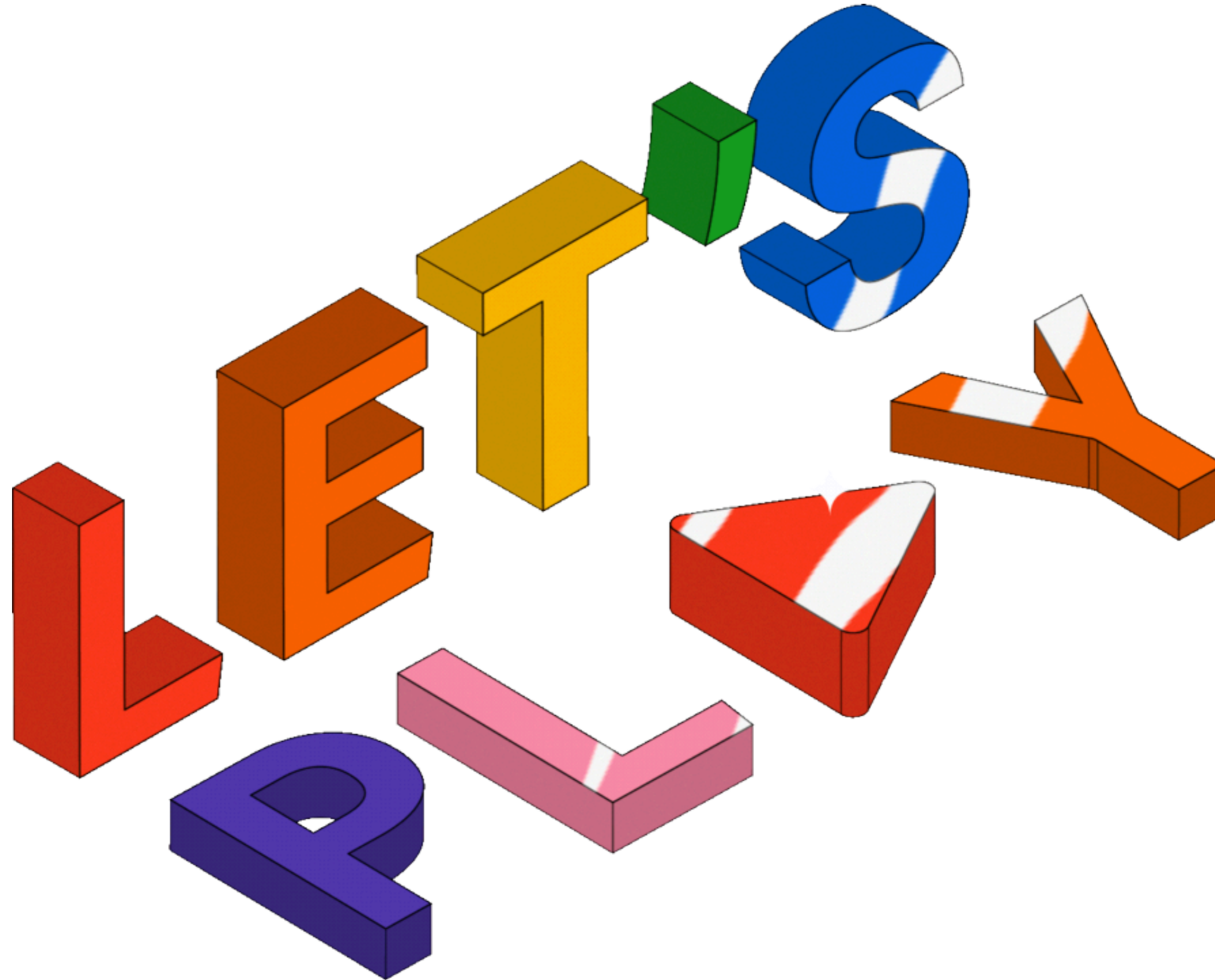
Additional Reminders



File a report with the police, offering as much information as possible about who is involved and in what ways.

Call a Cybertipline to report potential abuse or exploitation and receive additional recommendations for action steps.

Activity



Activity

We recommend playing
Connect for Freedom Top 5 Quiz
Online Safety & Online Enticement.

THE
END

Lesson Handout from NCMEC



Lesson Handout from NCMEC

TAKE CONTROL OF THE **SITUATION** AND **YOUR LIFE AGAIN**

**USE THESE
TIPS**

REPORT

This is one of the best ways to stop your image from spreading if it is on a website/app or being shared without your consent.

REPORT IT:

- **To the website or app.**
Trustworthy websites/apps work hard to keep off sexual images of minors and will remove them if notified. You can also report anyone who is posting or sharing images of you. For more information about reporting to popular websites/apps, visit [MissingKids.org/GetHelpNow](https://www.missingkids.org/GetHelpNow).
- **To CyberTipline.org.**
This tipline can connect you with the experts best suited to work on your case. They may contact the website or the police, or reach out to you for more details. You can report without sharing your name and can even make a report for a friend if they need help.
- **To the police.**
They can help stop your image from spreading by working with websites/apps and talking to the people sharing it. You should know if the police get involved, you could face some consequences, too. It's illegal to share sexual images of minors even if they are of you. You may not be charged with a crime, but you may have to attend classes or complete community service.
- **To a teacher.**
If your pictures are being shared around school, your teachers and school administrators can help stop it by making clear there are consequences for sharing them.

GET SUPPORT

One of the worst things about a sexting incident is feeling like you're facing everything alone. But you have people who care for you and want to help. Talk to them!

- **Your friends** can stand up for you by refusing to forward the image and making it clear that it's not cool to share the image or bully you.
- **A trusted adult** can offer advice, help you report, and help you deal with other complicated things. It could be your mom, dad, an aunt, a school counselor, or anyone you trust and are comfortable talking to.
- **Teachers** can remind your classmates and peers about your school's rules and codes on bullying and help put a stop to any bullying behavior.
- If you feel that your school is ignoring the bullying, ask your **mom, dad, or guardian** for help. They can champion your case at your school, with your teachers, and other adults.

DON'T GIVE UP

Having a nude or sexual image of yourself floating around is scary. It can make you feel vulnerable and isolated. But remember, **other teens have been in the same situation you are – and they have beaten it.**

The people who have taken advantage of you want you to feel powerless. **But you are not powerless.** You are strong. You can take charge of your situation and take back control of your life.

What if I'm being blackmailed?

Blackmail is when someone tries to threaten or scare you into doing something. For example, teens may share sexual images with people they trust, only to have those people turn on them. They may threaten to send the images to teens' families unless the teens share more images.

If you're being blackmailed, you may feel helpless or guilty. You may think you don't have the right to say "no" because you shared the first image willingly. **WRONG!** Blackmail is illegal and you don't have to take it.

YOU SHOULD:

- Stop any communications with blackmailers. They'll try to use your conversations to threaten and manipulate you – don't give them the chance. Even if you have already started communicating with them, it's never too late to stop and report it.
- Block or remove the blackmailer from your contact list. If you decide to deactivate your accounts, contact the websites/apps for help.
- Make a report to the police and CyberTipline.org right away. Seriously. They can help. They may want to see any messages you've received from the blackmailer.

For more resources visit [MissingKids.org/NetSmartz/Resources](https://www.missingkids.org/NetSmartz/Resources).

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NetSmartz



Links to Lesson Materials

[Auroris Media “Sextortion Module 2” Video](#)

[Auroris Media & NCMEC “Sextortion Module 2” Discussion Guide](#)

[Auroris Media “Sextortion Module 3” Video](#)

[Auroris Media & NCMEC “Sextortion Module 3” Discussion Guide](#)

[NCMEC “You Sent a Sext” Handout](#)

[Connect for Freedom Top 5 Quiz Online Safety & Online Enticement](#)

Recap of Lesson

Vulnerabilities that offender's prey on:

- Lack of supportive family and friends
- Familial history of abuse, addiction, or mental health issues
- History of running away from home
- Financial instability
- Low self-esteem
- History of trauma
- Involvement in child welfare or juvenile justice system
- Nonacceptance of sexual orientation

Online red flags:

- Someone sending inappropriate pictures
- Talking to you about sex
- Asking for pictures of you
- Trying to meet up in real life
- Following all your profiles
- Asking a lot of personal questions
- Getting mad if you aren't online