



Author: Connect for Freedom

Grade Level: 9th Grade

Lesson Title: Online Decisions with Real Life Consequences

Instructional Time Required: One Class Session

Lesson Objectives: Students should be able to:

- Understand what is inappropriate behavior online.
- Understand the negative consequences of inappropriate behavior online.
- Define what sexting is and explain why it is dangerous.
- Identify the risks of sexting.
- Explain what they would do if their nude or partially nude image or video is leaked online.

Lesson Overview:

This lesson starts with learning about what constitutes inappropriate behavior online and the consequences and risks associated with it. Students will then watch a video called “Teen Voices: Oversharing and Your Digital Footprint” created by Common Sense Education. This video focuses on the assumed normalcy of “oversharing” online and the importance to think about your digital footprint. Students will then learn about what sexting is and the dangers associated with it. It is important to highlight the risks of sexting so that students understand the seriousness of this topic. Students will then watch a video called “Online Sexual Abuse Can Happen” created by Fight Child Abuse which depicts a young girl experiencing sexual abuse online and via text in her relationship. Then students will learn about NCMEC’s “Take It Down” free service, which helps you remove or stop the online sharing of nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit images or videos taken of someone when they were under 18 years old. We recommend teachers highlight the significance of this service so that students can use it if they are ever in this terrible situation. At the end of the lesson, students will take know2protect’s Pledge2Protect, vowing to stay safe online.

Key Terms in Lesson:

Sexting- sending, forwarding, or receiving a sexually explicit message, nude, or partially nude image or video via cell phone, computer, or other electronic device.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards Addressed in This Lesson:

- 2.3.8.PS.1: Assess the degree of risk in a variety of situations, and identify strategies needed to reduce deliberate and non-deliberate injuries to self and others (e.g., digital safety, sexting, dating violence, domestic violence, gang violence, human trafficking, nonconsensual sexual encounters, other threats of violence).
- 2.3.8.PS.6: Demonstrate strategies to use social media safely, legally, and respectfully (e.g., sexting, sextortion).

Lesson Enrichment Activity: *Connect for Freedom* Top 5 Quiz Online Decisions

Lesson Handout: *The Dibble Institute* Sexting: Advice for Teens

Student Assessment:

- Do you think that sexting is common in most teen relationships?
- What are some inappropriate behaviors to exhibit online?
- What can you do if your nude or partially nude image or video is shared online without your consent?
- List two negative consequences of posting inappropriate things online.
- Do you think the risks outweigh the benefits of sending an inappropriate message online? Why or why not?