Organizer: Connect for Freedom

Age/Grade Level: Ages 17–18 (12th Grade)

Lesson Title: Digital Awareness & Online Safety

Instructional Time Required: One Session

Lesson Objectives: Youth should be able to:

- Understand the difference between online enticement and sextortion.
- Understand where predators are reaching their victims.
- Define what grooming is and identify grooming tactics.
- List privacy measures to protect themselves online.
- Identify the steps to take if they see something inappropriate online.

Lesson Overview:

This lesson starts with learning about online enticement, sextortion, and online exploitation statistics. Participants will learn about where predators are reaching out to their victims online and the grooming process they employ to build a positive relationship with their intended victims. Participants will watch a video called “This is Human Trafficking- Social Media Recruitment” created by Youth Activist Inc. This is an extremely important video because it highlights how traffickers and predators are using social media and the internet to reach out to and exploit youth. We recommend a discussion following this video. Participants will read about a real-life story where a young man with a promising future was sextorted online and unfortunately took his own life. Sextortion has been a growing problem in the United States in the past few years, and it is important for all youth to know the seriousness of it. Participants will learn about privacy suggestions for social media and the internet and what steps to take if they ever find themselves in an uncomfortable situation online. Participants will take know2protect’s Pledge2Protect, vowing to stay safe online.

Key Terms in Lesson:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. “*Online Enticement*.” MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/onlineenticement
Alliance for Children. “*What is Grooming?*” AllianceforChildren.org. https://www.allianceforchildren.org/blog/2018/06/what-grooming
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. “*NetSmartz-Home*.” MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home
Connect for Freedom & Kent Place. “*Workshop*.” 2023. Summit, NJ.

© 2026 Connect For Freedom, Inc.

Online enticement- involves an individual communicating with a minor via the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offense or abduction.

Sextortion- a form of child sexual exploitation where a minor is threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public a nude or sexual image of themselves, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity, or money from them.

Grooming- the process in which an offender sexually abuses a minor. This is often the first step in fostering a relationship with a minor and building trust.

Lesson Enrichment Activity: Online Safety Jeopardy

Lesson Handout: *know2protect* Tips2Identify Fake Profiles

Youth Assessment Recommendations:

- What is the key difference between online enticement and sextortion?
- Have you ever been in a situation where someone has made you feel uncomfortable online?
- What privacy suggestions do you plan to implement after this lesson?
- Identify several grooming tactics used by predators.
- Do you think that sextortion is common and can happen to anyone? Why or why not?

Important Notice: Connect for Freedom has compiled information and materials from the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign, Polaris Project, Thorn, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and other reputable organizations.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Online Enticement*." MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/onlineenticement
Alliance for Children. "*What is Grooming?*" AllianceforChildren.org. https://www.allianceforchildren.org/blog/2018/06/what-grooming
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*NetSmartz-Home*." MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home
Connect for Freedom & Kent Place. "*Workshop*." 2023. Summit, NJ.

© 2026 Connect For Freedom, Inc.