Curated By: Connect for Freedom

Grade Level: 6th Grade

Lesson Title: Protecting Yourself from Online Predators

Instructional Time Required: One Class Session

Lesson Objectives: Students should be able to:

- Recognize what vulnerabilities offenders prey on.
- Identify online red flags.
- Understand the importance of privacy suggestions.
- List the steps to take if someone makes them feel uncomfortable online.
- Identify the privacy suggestions they intend to implement and why.

Lesson Overview:

This lesson starts off with students watching a video called "Sextortion Module 2" created by Auroris Media. In this video, a young woman describes her personal experience being sextorted by someone she met online whom she thought was a potential love interest. This is a very common tactic used by predators online to manipulate minors into sending nude images of themselves. Once the predator receives this, they often start threatening/blackmailing the minor for more images, money, or sexual favors. Students will learn about vulnerabilities that predator's prey on, as well as what red flags to look out for online. Students will watch "Sextortion Module 3" created by Auroris Media as well, which details another sextortion survivor's story and the court proceedings once she decided to speak up and press charges. Students will learn about privacy suggestions as well as additional reminders of steps to take if someone is making them feel unsafe or uncomfortable online. Our goal is to ensure students understand the gravity of the situations described in this lesson but leave with the knowledge of how to protect themselves.

Key Terms in Lesson:

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

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Online Enticement.*" MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/onlineenticement
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Trafficking*." MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/trafficking
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Home*." MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home
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Sextortion- a form of child sexual exploitation where minors are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public a nude or sexual image of them, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity, or money from them.

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.4: Describe strategies that sex traffickers/exploiters employ to recruit youth.
- 2.3.8.PS.6: Demonstrate strategies to use social media safely, legally, and respectfully (e.g., sexting, sextortion).

Lesson Activity: Top 5 Quiz Online Safety & Online Enticement

Lesson Handout: *NetSmartz* You Sent a Sext, Now What?

Student Assessment Recommendations:

- What is a common vulnerability you see in people your age that could make them susceptible to being targeted online?
- What would you do if someone threatened you or your family online?
- Can you identify two online red flags?
- If you were being sextorted, do you have a parent or trusted adult you feel comfortable turning to for help?
- List the steps you would take if someone made you feel uncomfortable or unsafe online.
- What preventative measures do you think you can take to not be sextorted online?

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/theissues/onlineenticement
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