Curated By: 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 inappropriate online behavior is.
- 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 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 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 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. 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. Students 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/theissues/onlineenticement
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Sexting.*" MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/sexting
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Take It Down*." TakeItDown.NCMEC.org. https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/

© 2026 Connect For Freedom, Inc.

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:

- 2.3.12.PS.1: Apply a thoughtful decision-making process to evaluate situations and influences that could lead to healthy or unhealthy consequences (e.g., peers, media).
- 2.3.12.PS.2: Analyze the short- and long-term consequences of sharing sexually explicit images (sexting) or messages with individuals or posting online.
- 2.3.12.PS.9: Evaluate strategies to use social media safely, legally, and respectfully.

Lesson Enrichment Activity: Top 5 Quiz Online Decisions

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

Student Assessment Recommendations:

- 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?

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
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Sexting.*" MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/sexting
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Take It Down*." TakeItDown.NCMEC.org. https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/

© 2026 Connect For Freedom, Inc.