


DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP SERIES

DIGITAL LAWS




DIGITAL LAWS are laws to keep people safe online. These laws protect people's identity and property such as books and movies.

With internet use increasing, so are the laws to help protect

internet users. Some states have laws against harassment from all kinds of communication: telephone calls, text messages, computers and other digital devices. Many states now require school districts to create a policy to report harassment and stalking committed on school property to the local police department. Some states require school districts to have a written policy that outlines proper electronic communication between teachers and students,

including social media, email, and text messaging. President Barack Obama has proposed the Student Digital Privacy Act to protect children against invasions of privacy, specifically the use of companies collecting data about students to use for targeted advertising.

To read more about digital laws and to learn about what is legal and what is illegal, visit: moodleshare.org/mod/page/view.php?id=15003&inpopup=1.



TIPS FOR DIGITAL SAFETY

- > Never post your personal information, such as a cell phone number, home number, home address, or your location on any social networking site or through mobile apps like Snapchat or Instagram.
- > Never meet in person with anyone you first "met" on the internet. If someone asks to meet you, tell your parents or teacher right away. Some people may not be who they say they are.
- > Check with your parents before you post pictures of yourself or others online. Do not post inappropriate pictures of anyone.
- > Don't respond to mean or rude texts, messages, and e-mails. Delete any unwanted messages. You may need to delete friends who continuously bother you or post things that are not appropriate.
- > Never share your password with anyone, including your best friend. The only people who should know your password are your parents.
- > Use the privacy settings on social networking sites.
- > Protect your computer from viruses by installing security software and keeping it up to date.
- > Only open emails or email attachments if you know who they are from and are expecting them. Be careful about clicking on links.
- > Do not use or share copyrighted information without permission.
- > Always cite your sources when you share information, pictures, music or video clips.
- > Don't buy music or movies illegally or download them from a sharing site.
- > If anything makes you feel uncomfortable online, while gaming or when using your cell phone, talk with your parents or teacher right away.



FOUR MAIN ISSUES OF DIGITAL LAWS

COPYRIGHT: plagiarism, or using material that is not yours.

PRIVACY: hacking into someone's computer, stealing someone's identity or sharing personal information about others.

ETHICAL ISSUES: these can include cyberbullying, posting pictures of others without permission, spreading rumors or false information, creating or sharing viruses.

PIRACY: obtaining software, music and movies without paying for them legally.



Talk About It

What information surprised you? Why is digital law important? What changes or additions

would you make to the current digital laws? Why?

In The News

Use the newspaper to find a story about someone who has broken a law. How would you feel if you were the lawbreaker,

the victim, the lawyer or the judge? Rewrite the story from the point of view of each of these people.

Try It:

Many school districts have programs to help fight plagiarism. Some use databases, such as Turnitin, which check students' work for plagiarism. Classroom teachers, librarians and media specialists show students how to summarize and paraphrase information correctly. Imagine you are the school principal. What is your policy for copyright and plagiarism? What are the consequences? Write a policy and share it with the class. Compare policies. What do they have in common?

Academic Standards: Reading nonfiction text for main idea and supporting details. Making text-to-self and text-to-world connections. Making inferences. Writing for a particular audience and purpose. Identifying point of view.