

# Turn Down the Dial on Cyberbullying and Online Cruelty

What factors intensify cyberbullying and online cruelty, and what can you do to lessen them?

Exploring Computer Science, Garfield HS  
Mr. Bergquist, October 2012

Taken from Common Sense .org lesson of the same title.



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP IN A CONNECTED CULTURE  
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# What is Online Cruelty or Cyberbullying?

- Online cruelty, also referred to as cyberbullying, takes place whenever someone uses digital media tools such as the Internet and cell phones to deliberately upset or harass someone else, often repeatedly.

# Ricardo's Story



## **Connected Culture Video Vignette: Ricardo's Story**

<http://www.common sense media.org/video/modal/2102097>

# Is Ricardo a Cyberbully?

- **Do you think Ricardo is a Cyberbully?**  
Why or why not?
- What does Ricardo mean when he says that information “**gets around really quick**”?
- Ricardo thinks that **harassing others on Internet**, rather than in person, **appeals to some teenagers because they can't be attacked back physically.**  
What do you think?

# Key Vocabulary

- **Target:** A person who is the object of an intentional action
- **Offender:** A person who has malicious intent to hurt or damage someone, in these cases the Cyberbully
- **Escalate:** To increase or make more intense

# How does this affect the Target?

- Have you or someone you know ever encountered online cruelty? How do you think someone might feel after being the target of it?
- Targets of online cruelty may feel they can be bombarded with negative comments at any time, anywhere. And when more offenders join in the online cruelty, the situation gets even worse.

# Additional Key Vocabulary

- **Bystander:** A person who does nothing when they witness something happening
- **Upstander:** A person who supports and stands up for someone else
- **Escalate:** To increase or make more intense
- **De-escalate:** To decrease or make less intense

# Stacy's Story



## **Connected Culture Video Vignette: Stacey's Story**

<http://www.common sense media.org/video/modal/2078106>



# About Stacy's Story

- Who was involved in the story and what roles did they play?
  - Who was the target?
  - Who were the offenders?
  - Were there bystanders and/or upstanders?
- How do you think the online cruelty might be different from offline behavior?
- What do you think you might have done if you were Stacey? What could you have done if you wanted to be an upstander in this situation?

# How can we De-escalate Online Cruelty?

- What can the Target do to De-escalate?
  - To avoid seeing more attacks?
  - Prevent the Cyberbully from attacking someone else?
  - Where can they get help?
- What can Upstanders do to De-escalate?
  - When they see offending posts?
  - About the Cyberbully?
  - To assist the Target?

# Will you be an Upstander or Bystander?

- Have you or a friend ever experienced a situation similar to Stacey's?
- Why is it important to be an upstander rather than a bystander?

## Paired Activity:

### Mapping out the Incidents

- In pairs, we will re-watch the Stacy Story and the first person will write down the incidents that escalated in that story.
- Then the second person will write down how it might have de-escalated if Stacey had some upstanders on her side.

# Creating “Dial it Down” Maps

- Start with your handouts and **turn them into maps, using elements such as size and color to indicate escalation and de-escalation, and arrows to show the flow of events.**
- Add your own ideas of what could happen or may have happened to a friend and illustrate how it could escalate or be de-escalated. **Be creative and colorful.**

# Share your Maps

- Let's see what you have created...

# What is Garfield HS Policy...?

## DISTRICT OFFENSES

D-300 Harassment

D-310 Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment<sup>53</sup>

Engaging in intentional written, verbal, **electronic**, or physical bullying, intimidating, or harassing conduct that: is for the purpose of embarrassing or denigrating another person; physically harms a person or damages the person's property; is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's education or adult's right to teach or manage student behavior; or has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

\* \* \* \* \*

There is no requirement that the person actually possesses the characteristic that is the basis for the bullying, intimidation, or harassment. This includes, but is not limited to,

**conducting electronic bullying**, intimidation, and harassment, including, but not limited to, **cyberbullying**, on school grounds, during school activities, on school buses, or during the school day.

The District will respond to off-campus student speech that causes or threatens to cause a substantial disruption on campus or interferes with the right of students to be secure and obtain their education.

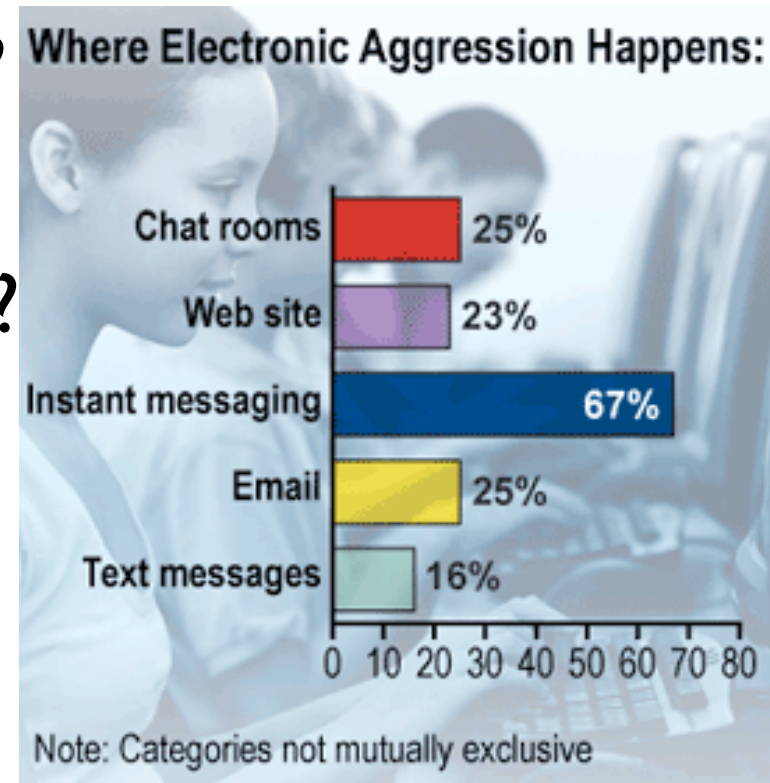
<sup>53</sup> See, E-610 Malicious Harassment for harassing and intimidating behavior based on protected class or status.

**From Seattle School District STUDENT RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES:**

<http://district.seattleschools.org/modules/groups/homepagefiles/cms/1583136/File/Forms/Discipline/SRR-English.pdf>

# How is Cyberbullying different?

- How is Cyberbullying different than in person bullying or harassment?
- How can it be worst?
- Where does it occur?





# Apply what we have learned?

- Have you ever witnessed cyberbullying and not gotten involved, but later wished you had?
- What prevented you from taking action?
- What might you do differently if it happened again?
- Why is it important to take action to de-escalate online cruelty whenever we witness it?

# What are the Roles in Bullying?

- What are some roles that different people play in cyberbullying situations, and how would you describe each one?
  - Target: The object of the online cruelty
  - Offender: The person who tries to hurt or harass the target
  - Bystander: A person who does nothing when they see something happening
  - Upstander: A person who supports and stands up for someone else

# Any thoughts or comments?

- Does this change how you will act when you see Cyberbullying?
- Any Comments??
- Questions???

