

UNIT

2

# Digital Citizenship

Student Packet • Grades 9-12



**common**  **sense**<sup>®</sup>  
media

## My Online Code

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### Directions

Imagine there's a kid in one of your classes named Jeff. You know him, but not very well. You notice that he is friends with one of your friends on the social networking site MyBook. His profile is public, so you decide to check it out.

Some information posted in Jeff's profile is below. Your group will be assigned to analyze **one** topic on this profile and answer the corresponding questions.

#### Topic 1 of Jeff's profile: Privacy

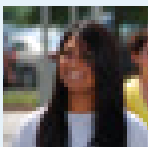


##### YourPalAI says...

Seems Matt's parents are fighting again — he's been on my couch all week. Any chance you could house him for a night or two?

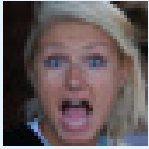
- Q1:** *Was it appropriate for YourPalAI to post personal information about Matt on Jeff's profile? Are there any potential benefits or harms in having Matt's story shared online?*
- Q2:** *When you see Matt at school tomorrow, will you treat him any differently? What effect might seeing his personal information online have on how you think about or treat him offline (i.e., face-to-face)?*
- Q3:** *Are there any other ways that YourPalAI could have used digital technology in trying to help his friend Matt?*
- Q4:** *What would you have done if you were in YourPalAI's place? What would you do if you were Jeff? How would you react if you were Matt?*

#### Topic 2 of Jeff's profile: Self-Expression and Identity



##### RosyRosa says...

Have you seen Lisa's new profile pic?? Lol, she's trying to be all goth for her online 'friends' or whatever.



### The trouble w/Ty says...

OMG, Lisa's such a freak

- Q1:** *Why do you think Lisa may have chosen a new “goth” profile picture? Is there any harm in her presenting a different identity online?*
- Q2:** *Imagine that Lisa's online friends had never met her face-to-face, and that once they did they discovered she doesn't actually dress goth. How do you think they would react?*
- Q3:** *Why might RosyRosa and The trouble w/Ty be reacting negatively to their friend's new picture? Is it right for them to respond the way they did?*
- Q4:** *What would you have done if you had seen a profile picture like Lisa's, that didn't seem real? How would you react to RosyRosa and The trouble w/Ty's postings if you were Lisa?*

## Topic 3 of Jeff's profile: Connected Culture



### Pat says...

Can you believe the dumb assignment Garrett gave us? You should totally join our I Hate Mr. Garrett page: <http://honkifyouhategarrett/fh>.

- Q1:** *What do you think of Pat and his friends creating such a page?*
- Q2:** *Do you think Jeff has a responsibility to address or comment on Pat's post? What are some things he might do?*
- Q3:** *How would you react if you really liked Mr. Garrett, and you saw this post from Pat? Would you do anything about it? If so, what would you do?*
- Q4:** *How would you react if you saw a page like this created about you? What would you do if you saw a page like this about a friend or a teacher?*

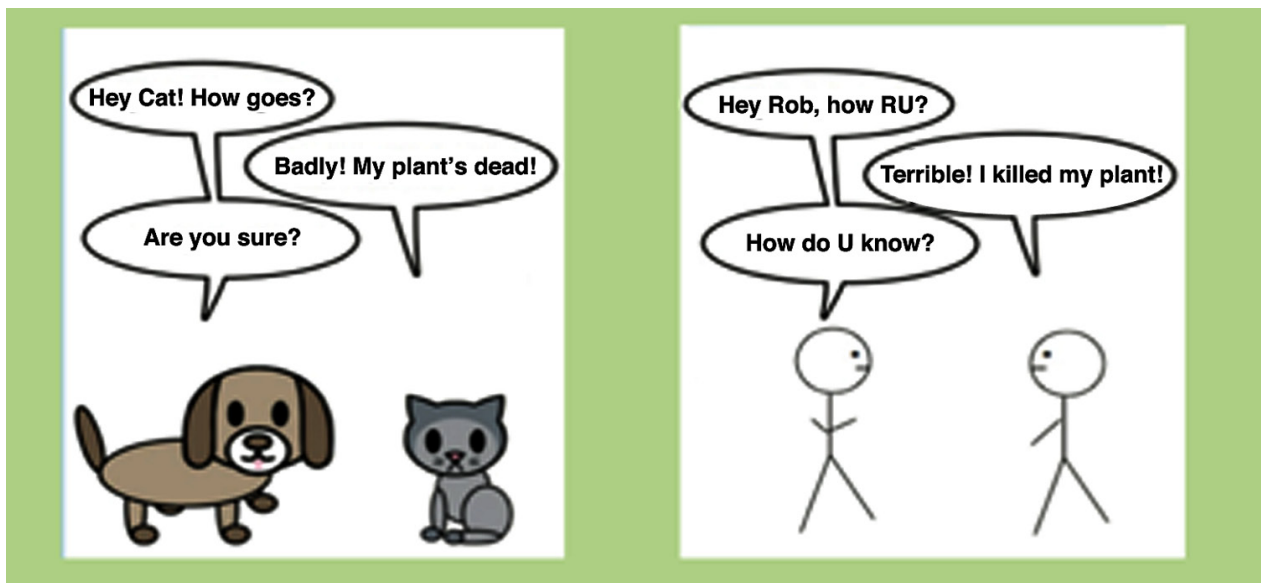
## Topic 4 of Jeff's profile: Respecting Creative Work

### Subject: Irritated...AGAIN

posted by Jeff at 7:30pm | comments (3)

So, it has happened again. For Garrett's art class we had to do these stupid online group comic projects. Not only did my horrible partners stick me with all of the work, but I just found out that one of them emailed my comic to her friend in the other class who ripped it off! NOT cool.

Check it out – here's a piece of mine on the left, theirs on the right.



- Q1:** What do you think of the student work on the right? Do you think Jeff's work inspired the other artist, or that the other artist plagiarized his work?
- Q2:** What if the comic artist on the right had included a credit line that said "Based on a concept by Jeff," and asked Jeff's permission to use it. Would that still be plagiarism? Would it be ethical?
- Q3:** Clearly Jeff is bothered that someone "ripped off" his comic. What if, in a written entry about music, he provides a link for downloading a new album for free? Do you think the two things are similar or different? Why?
- Q4:** What would you do if you were in Jeff's situation and someone else had plagiarized your work? What if you knew about an instance in which someone else's work had been plagiarized?

# Building Community Online

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## Directions

Your group's challenge is to choose a topic and then design a website that gives teens a space to exchange advice on that topic. This is a peer-advice site, which means that the site creators don't give out the advice; instead, users ask for and receive advice from one another. Your website should include features and tools that will help foster positive community among its teen members — for example, networking, blogging, photo sharing, user reviews, crowdsourcing.

First, review guidelines for building an online community. Then use those guidelines to answer these questions.

**What is the purpose of your website?**

**What type of users will your website seek out, and how will you attract them?**

**What social media features will your website have for fostering community? Choose four features and explain how you will use each one. Also, explain why you believe each will help build a sense of community.**

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How will you ensure that your community stays positive? How will you encourage everyone to participate?**

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**What is your website called?**

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On a large piece of drawing paper, make a drawing of the website's home page. Make sure the drawing highlights the social media features you listed above. If you have time, you can design some of the linked pages too.

# Building Community Online

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## Directions

Together, fill in the boxes for the following chart. You may want to visit and analyze some of the sites' features.

Type of Site	Social and Professional Networking	Blogging and Microblogging	Photo and Video Sharing	Reviews and Quality Ratings	Collective Intelligence
Names of Sites					
Examples of How Sites Foster Positive Community					
Examples of How Community Can Break Down					

# Overexposed: Sexting and Relationships

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## Directions

Read the real-life posts from MTV’s “A Thin Line” Campaign below. Vote on whether you think each situation crosses the line. Then brainstorm ways for teens to avoid sexting, and to use digital media responsibly.

**Lynn | Female, 15**

There is a girl at school and she is constantly upset with me because she thinks I like her boyfriend. She even has her friends texting me telling me to stay away from him. But her bf and I are just friends. What am I supposed to do?

view comments (5) | post comment | share

IS THIS...  
 over  
 on  
 under  
 THE LINE?

**caleb | male, 16**

im 16 my girlfriend broke up with me in a text messag so i posted some nude pictures she sent me all over town and on the internet was this over the line?

view comments (52) | post comment | share

IS THIS...  
 over  
 on  
 under  
 THE LINE?

**Anonymous**

my girlfriend sometimes txts wen around me, i ask her to let me see her phone and she says no. idk what to believe or expect it worries me sometimes that she is cheating on me. a month or two ago she would always let me see it, now she never does

view comments (7) | post comment | share

IS THIS...  
 over  
 on  
 under  
 THE LINE?

**Anonymous**

This girl who tries super hard to be popular posted these skanky pics on facebook so we all texted her anonymously telling her shes ugly.

view comments (27) | post comment | share

IS THIS...  
 over  
 on  
 under  
 THE LINE?



# Risky Online Relationships

## Directions

Read the story below. Then follow the directions on the next page.

Sheyna's first year of high school is off to a rough start. She was a CIT (counselor in training) at a day camp this summer and loved every minute of it. But now Sheyna misses camp and feels like she can't relate to her school friends anymore.

Every evening, Sheyna IMs (instant messages) Nick, the assistant director of her camp. He just graduated from college and lives a few hours away from her. Nick and Sheyna didn't know each other that well, but they exchanged screen names at the end of the summer. Sheyna talks to Nick about how much she misses camp and why she's frustrated with her friends. Nick is funny, flirty, and great at giving advice. "Those girls sound so immature," he tells her. "You might as well be in college. Seriously. You act way cooler than any 14-year-old I know."

A few weeks after school starts, Nick starts flirting with Sheyna more obviously:

**kNicksFan93** did you know i thought about you at camp all the time?  
i like couldn't take my eyes off you

**sheybey101** :) why didn't you say anything!?

**kNicksFan93** lol u were a CIT

**kNicksFan93** ...and i want to make sure u will still be a CIT next summer....  
so we can't tell anyone about this...

**sheybey101** ummm i better be a CIT next summer! jk. (but seriously.)

**kNicksFan93** parents freak out about this kind of stuff

**kNicksFan93** u don't want me to lose my job, right?

**sheybey101** of course not!

**kNicksFan93** that's my girl. so glad that we can trust each other.

**sheybey101:**

Nick then asks Sheyna to send him some pictures of her in her bathing suit at camp. Sheyna is flattered, but it makes her feel a little uncomfortable. She decides to send the pictures anyway. Nick always talks about how mature she seems, and she doesn't want to make him think otherwise.

One day after soccer practice, Sheyna's best friend, Grace, asks to borrow her phone. Without trying to snoop, Grace sees a few sexts (sexually explicit text messages) between Sheyna and Nick. Grace doesn't know much about Nick, which is strange because she and Sheyna usually tell each other about their crushes. Grace decides to ask Sheyna about her relationship with Nick.

## **Directions**

Based on the story you just read, answer the following questions as if you were Sheyna. Write your responses in the spaces provided.

**1. How did you meet Nick, and how often do you talk to him?**

**2. Is Nick older than you? By how much?**

**3. Has Nick ever asked you to keep your relationship secret? In what way?**

**4. Have you ever felt uncomfortable with anything that Nick has asked you to do?**

Now answer the following questions as if you were Grace, not Sheyna.

**1. Does it seem like Nick is manipulating Sheyna? Why or why not?**

**2. Why might this be a sensitive issue for Sheyna?**

**3. What advice would you give Sheyna about her relationship with Nick?**

# **Lesson Assessments**

# My Online Code

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1. You learned that online ethics is a set of rules or ideas that guide your behavior. Choose the answer below that is an example of online ethics.

- a) Making sure your seatbelt is on
- b) Working on a class project
- c) Being in the first row of a concert
- d) Asking your brother before posting a funny photo of him online

2. Which of the following behaviors is not ethical?

- a) Searching for information online
- b) Giving a friend credit for using their song in a video that you created
- c) Posting a mean message online about a classmate
- d) Asking your friend before you post a picture of her

3. Tommy has not been in school for the past few days and his classmate, Sam, thinks this is unfair. Sam posts the following message on his social networking page: "Tommy S. thinks he's special and doesn't have to go to class."

**True or false: Sam's post is irresponsible.**

- a) True
- b) False

# Who Are You Online?

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1. \_\_\_\_\_ means to show yourself to others as being a certain way or having particular characteristics.

- a) Represent
- b) Inhibited
- c) Anonymous
- d) Label

2. Offline, Tyrone is shy and gets made fun of at school. Online, Tyrone is outgoing and feels popular. Why might Tyrone feel he can be outgoing and popular online when he is shy and unpopular at school?

- a) Tyrone has a funny screen name
- b) Tyrone can't see other people online, so he feels he can behave differently than he would offline
- c) Tyrone has more time to plan what he says to people online
- d) Both b and c

3. What are some risks and some benefits to presenting yourself differently online than you present yourself offline? Write the letter of each answer choice in the correct part of the chart.

- a) You might behave in ways that are unsafe or harmful to yourself
- b) You might be able to try things out that you normally wouldn't or couldn't try
- c) You can highlight or emphasize the parts of yourself that you feel good about
- d) You might behave in ways that are disrespectful to others

Risks	Benefits

# Building Community Online

1. How is a positive community built, and how can it break down? Read each example below and circle whether it's a "community builder" or a "community breaker." The first one is done for you.

Community members are mean or disrespectful	Community Builder	Community Breaker
Community members help everyone feel welcome	Community Builder	Community Breaker
Community members don't like to participate in activities	Community Builder	Community Breaker
Community members have lots of options for getting involved	Community Builder	Community Breaker
Community members feel they can share their interests	Community Builder	Community Breaker
There is little opportunity for members' input	Community Builder	Community Breaker

2. Complete the following sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ media are online communications that promote user interaction, feedback, and content sharing.

3. What do all social media sites have in common?

- a) They all engage users with fun or interesting features
- b) They reward the most popular users with free Internet access
- c) They encourage people to participate
- d) Both a and c

# Overexposed: Sexting and Relationships

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1. The word “sexting” has to do with sharing a specific kind of content. Sexting is:

- a) Getting a text that says you look nice
- b) Sending or receiving a text about going on a date
- c) Sharing any photos by text message
- d) Sending or receiving sexually explicit photos or videos by text message or other digital media

2. Sexting by minors, or kids under age 18, is illegal in some states.

- a) True
- b) False

3. Read the following situations below and circle whether they are risky or safe uses of digital media in romantic relationships.

Hector sends his cell phone number to his crush in a private message on Facebook.	<b>Risky</b>	<b>Safe</b>
Adam asks his girlfriend to say sexually explicit things in an IM conversation.	<b>Risky</b>	<b>Safe</b>
Monica surprises her crush by taking off some of her clothes during a video chat.	<b>Risky</b>	<b>Safe</b>
Ariel’s boyfriend wants her to send him a naked photo. She texts him: “Only if you text me one first.”	<b>Risky</b>	<b>Safe</b>
Cristina texts her boyfriend a picture of her at the Great Wall of China.	<b>Risky</b>	<b>Safe</b>
Jack tweets “I have the best girlfriend ever!”	<b>Risky</b>	<b>Safe</b>



# Risky Online Relationships

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- .....
- 1. True or false: Most people who ask teens to talk about sexual things online are older adults.**
- a) True
  - b) False
- 2. Mimi just signed up for online chat. How can she avoid getting into risky online chat situations? Read the following choices and then select the best answer.**
- a) Avoid chat during evening and night
  - b) Tell others she meets online that she is older than she actually is
  - c) Avoid flirting with people online
  - d) Tell others she meets online that she is already in a relationship
- 3. Melissa is chatting with someone she only knows online. She starts to feel uncomfortable about what they're talking about. Which actions could Melissa take to make the situation better? Circle all that apply.**
- a) Stop talking to the person altogether
  - b) Ask a friend to talk to the person and pretend to be her
  - c) Don't do anything
  - d) Log off of chat for a while
  - e) Keep talking with the person anyway
  - f) Change the subject
  - g) Block the user name

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