

Module 4 - Safe Online Talk

Essential Question

How should you handle inappropriate online talk?

Key Vocabulary

opportunity: a chance for something to happen

pitfall: a hidden or unexpected problem or danger

inappropriate: not proper; not ok

risky: potentially harmful to one's emotional or physical well being

harass: to bother or pressure aggressively

INVITE students to raise their hand if they have ever heard the saying, "Don't talk to strangers."

ASK How might this "rule" change when we communicate online?

Students' answers will vary. Guide students to recognize that while the Internet allows people to keep in touch or hang out with friends they already know offline, it also allows people who don't know each other to interact, debate, share, and collaborate.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **opportunity**.

POINT OUT that the Internet gives students a wide range of opportunities to connect with or learn from people who may not be in their circle of close friends - whether through games, social network sites, blogs, IMs, forums, and so on.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary terms **pitfall** and **inappropriate**.

EXPLAIN to students that connecting with people online occasionally can have its pitfalls. Therefore, it is important to know how to deal with inappropriate situations if they arise.

SHOW the video Safe Online Talk

INVITE students to share the opportunities and the pitfalls that Randy, Aseal, and Renee talk about in the video.

ASK Which story do you feel most connected to? Why?

Students' answers will vary.

ASK What advice did the teens share in the video? Would you add any advice of your own? Students may recall the following pieces of advice: end any conversation that starts to make you uncomfortable; remember that you can shut off a device at any time; remember that people are "far away" online, in a sense, so it's easier to take awkward or annoying moments less personally. Guide students to also consider the supportive roles that friends, parents, and mentors can play in uncomfortable situations.

ASK Renee talks about getting a "gut feeling" when she felt something was "off" online. What does that feel like? In which situations have you had that kind of gut feeling?

Students may share stories about being uncomfortable while chatting online, whether with strangers or with people they know. Others may share stories about detecting online scams or spam.

POINT OUT to students that just as they follow safety rules for travel in the real world, when they go online they should follow the three safety rules you just discussed.

REVIEW (show to kids)

The Truth About Risky Online Relationships

The information below is meant to clear up misconceptions about the common risks that kids face when they meet people online. It is based on research from the Crimes Against Children Research Center, the Internet Safety Technical Task Force, and Internet Solutions for Kids, Inc.

1. Teens, not children, are most likely to receive online sexual solicitations. Online solicitors rarely target younger kids. This happens more frequently to younger teens (ages 14 to 17). People who solicit online are often upfront about their intentions. They may ask teens to talk about sex, to give out personal sexual information, to send sexy photos online, or to meet offline for a possible sexual encounter.
2. A teen is more likely to be solicited online by another teen or a young adult. Contrary to popular belief, teens are more likely to be solicited online by similarly aged peers. It is true, however, that a very high majority of sexual solicitations online come from boys or men. Guiding teens to think more generally about avoiding risky online relationships, rather than telling them to fear predators, prepares them for the wider breadth of situations they may have to deal with online—not only the extreme cases.
3. The “predator-prey” label gives the wrong impression. There is a range of behaviors that are not made clear by the predator-prey label. The behaviors can range from “not as risky” to “very risky,” as reflected in the chart below:

<p>Not as Risky</p> <p>↓</p> <p>↓</p> <p>↓</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Very Risky</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive inappropriate spam through email and immediately send it to their junk mail• Accept a friend request online from a stranger and receive a sexually explicit online message thereafter, or joke around on a virtual world site and flirt with other avatars• Seek companionship or friendship on an online chat room, and develop an ongoing, risky relationship with a stranger
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QUIZ

True or False

1. Teens are the least likely group to be harassed online.
2. When teens are harassed, it is usually done by a complete stranger.
3. Receiving spam in your email is considered very risky.
4. If you are made to feel uncomfortable online, it's best to ignore it.