

# CYBERBULLIED SHOES

## SOCIAL AWARENESS



### LESSON PURPOSE:

Students practice empathy by considering more than one side of a story.

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How does looking at something from a target's point of view affect the way we think about cyberbullying?

### MATERIALS & PREPARATION

- Substitution stories — cut up so each pair receives only one story
- Discussion / Response page
- Paper and writing utensils

## LESSON PLAN

### Activity 1

Watch video: *Cyberbullied Shoes* [4 MINUTES]

### Activity 2

Facilitator may wish to have students complete Interactive Reflection Questions or continue to Activity 3

### Activity 3

Ask students to define cyberbullying and list different ways cyberbullying can happen.

Discuss how some cyberbullying uses the direct attack method through: messaging; stealing passwords; blogging; Internet polling; sending rude, threatening, or inappropriate emails, photos, and messages; or impersonating the target by creating fake social media sites. Ask students for examples of each and discuss any additional tools by cyberbullies.

Discuss how cyberbullying can happen via proxy: a cyberbully manages to get other people to do the dirty work so they appear to be clean. Sometimes this is done by falsely 'alerting' an ISP (Internet Service Provider) that the target has posted inappropriate materials or language on a site; sometimes people pose as others and instigate a group of people against the target; and sometimes they go on group sites and post inflammatory statements against the group and then provide personal information about the target. Experts say cyberbullying by proxy can often be the most dangerous.

Ask students if they think cyberbullies stop to think about the effects of their actions. Why or why not?

Tell students that experts say most people who participate in cyberbullying in any way lack empathy. What is empathy? (Merriam Webster definition: the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another of either the past or present without having the feelings, thoughts, and experience fully communicated in an objectively explicit manner).

