Internet Safety

Grades 6-12

Objective:

The students will be able to

- *Analyze online bullying behaviors that "cross the line" on social networks and in chat rooms.*

- *Learn about the various ways that students can be cyberbullied, including flaming, deceiving, and harassing.*

- *Recognize the importance of reporting cyberbullying*

- *Adopt the point of view of teens who have been cyberbullied, and offer solutions.*

Materials/Preparation

1. Projector and computer with internet access

2. Speakers

3. Handout: Lesson Plan

   Cyberbullying: Crossing the Line Student Discussion Guide (p. 1-2) and Discussion Guide Teacher Version (p. 1-2)

4. Handout: Cyberbullying Family Tip Sheet

5. Handout: Internet Safety Rules

Warm Up

1. What are some of the ways that you and your friends tease each other online?

2. When does teasing "cross the line" and become harmful? What are some signs, and what does it feel like to be in that situation?

Warm Up (possible answers)

1. **What are some of the ways that you and your friends tease each other online?** Send jokes back and forth; alter photos of one another, in a goofy (not mean) way

2. **When does teasing "cross the line" and become harmful? What are some signs, and what does it feel like to be in that situation?** The teasing begins to feel scary, not funny anymore; you feel helpless; you feel like your reputation might suffer; you are worried about your safety

Vocabulary

- **Social Media** – forms of electronic communication (such as facebook, twitter, and myspace) through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (such as videos)

- **Chat Rooms** - a real-time online interactive discussion group

- **Message Boards** – an online discussion group

Vocabulary

- **harassing:** bombarding someone with messages over digital media, or repeated contact when it is least expected

- **deceiving:** using fake names, posing as someone else, or creating a fake profile about someone else

- **flaming:** saying mean things, usually in ALL CAPS, and often in a public forum with the intention to humiliate

- **hate speech:** a verbal attack targeting someone because of their race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation

Stacy's Story

Watch this short video of a teen reflecting on a cyberbullying experience. Video link

Divide students into groups of four or five

Distribute the copies of the Cyberbullying: Crossing the Line Student Discussion Guide to each student, and have students discuss the Video Discussion Questions in their small groups.

Engage students in a full-class discussion about their responses to the video discussion questions. Refer to the Cyberbullying: Crossing the Line Student Discussion Guide – Teacher Version for guidance

Case Study Analysis

Have each group read and discuss the case study that you selected from the student handout (Case Study 1, "Attacked from All Sides" or Case Study 2, ""Election Sabotage").

Engage students in a full-class discussion about their responses to the case study questions. Refer to the *Cyberbullying: Crossing the Line Student Discussion Guide – Teacher Version for guidance*

Case Study Analysis

Key Points

1. It can be hard to judge someone's intentions online.
2. No matter how a message is sent, words used with the intention of hurting someone are taken very seriously by schools, parents, and even the police.
3. You should always tell a trusted adult if you observe or are involved in cyberbullying, and you must report it to the school, parents, or other trusted adults when someone has threatened to hurt someone else.

Reflectiion Question

Most inappropriate online behavior happens on social media sites and through chat rooms when interacting with others online.

1. Why is it important for you and others to act appropriately online? *(This includes **not using** and reporting harassment, deception, use of flaming language or hate speech).*

Closure

1. What does it feel like when a teasing situation "crosses the line" from harmless to harmful?

2. What are some different forms of cyberbullying?

3. What advice would you give to someone who feels cyberbullied?

Closure (possible answers)

1. What does it feel like when a teasing situation "crosses the line" from harmless to harmful? When teasing no longer feels funny and starts to feel upsetting or scary, then students should start taking it seriously. People can feel helpless, ganged up on, worried about their reputation, worried about their safety, etc.

2. What are some different forms of cyberbullying? Harassment, which feels virtually impossible to escape; deception, because it is dishonest to impersonate someone else, and it can damage their reputation; flaming, because of the extreme and cruel language; hate speech, which is discriminatory, and very damaging to someone's reputation

3. What advice would you give to someone who feels cyberbullied? Talk to friends about what you are going through. Tell an adult you trust, especially if you feel you are being flamed, deceived, harassed, are the target of hate speech.

Resources:

- http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents
- http://www.commonsensemedia.org/
- http://www.websterpsb.org (additional videos and links are posted)