

Is there anything I can do to respond to on-line harassment?

Lesson Objectives: Students will know the basic elements common to most codes of student conduct; and

Students will know and apply the “decision making framework” to respond to online bullying incidents by using their school’s code of student conduct.

Vocabulary: legal, ethical, personal morals, expected conduct, forbidden conduct, values, student rights, student responsibilities, grievance procedure, code of conduct, trier of fact, penalties and expulsion.

Materials: access to your school’s code of student conduct and PA Crimes Code Section 2709(a)1.

Process: 1. Pre-assessment given for baseline data.

Day One

2. Introduce topic the day before the main lesson with this hypothetical:

Dilemma #1: Darlene explains that she hates it when kids pick on another kid online. “Last night I was doing an online, group project for my class(shop). There were about seven other kids on the call. A couple of them were making fun of another kid from my class(shop) in the chat because he’s a person of color. His family is from Pakistan and he has a dark complexion. He also talks with an accent.

They sent chats to everyone else telling us not to partner with “Asia” to work on the assignment. He couldn’t see their posts but after no one agreed to work with him, he knew why. He got mad and logged out before we were done! I don’t know what I could do to respond?”

- Have you witnessed this type of online behavior? Suggestions as to proper response to reduce or stop it in our school

- How would you classify this type of conduct by fellow students? Is it bullying? There may be legal and/or ethical consequences for the aggressors.
- What is the difference between something that is illegal and something that is unethical?

3. Explain the “decision making framework” to address online bullying:

- Read to educate yourself,
- discuss it with peers to get different perspectives, and
- go to an authority or instructor if necessary.

4. Ask for students to use the “decision making framework” to address what Darlene saw happen online.

5. Assignment to read: Ask students to read the school’s Code of Student Conduct in their Student Handbook. Look for these topics: authority, student rights, student responsibilities, bullying, reporting or grievance process, harassment, slander and appeal.

DAY TWO

1. Have the terms: morals, ethics and legal on the board. Ask students to compare and contrast the terms with specific examples from their own experience if possible. Write their responses on the board or computer screen for display and discussion.

2. Next ask them if they found language in their Code of Student Conduct discussing: authority, student rights, student responsibilities, bullying, reporting or grievance process and appeal?

Have hard copies available or project Code of Student Conduct from projector screen to show sections as discussed.

3. Anyone volunteer to review the hypothetical facts from yesterday involving school students encouraging other students not to work with a fellow student because of his color and accent?

4. Would anyone else volunteer to apply the school's Code of Student Conduct to the facts in that hypo? Discussion of which provisions apply? Classification of the student behavior as harassment or bullying? Both?

Possible answers (must be edited to use actual language): Bullying ...not in a school setting: All forms of bullying are prohibited by this policy, including cyber bullying (occurs on the Internet)... if those acts are directed at another student or students, are severe, persistent, or pervasive and have the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantially interfering with a student's education
2. Creating a threatening environment
3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, or

Student Responsibilities. Students are encouraged to report any and all acts of observable bullying to either the teacher, school counselor, or principal. Students are reassured that any information given to staff will be held in confidence and treated with importance.

Student Responsibilities.

Students do not have the right to interfere with the education of other students. It is the responsibility of students to respect the rights of teachers, other students, administrators, and all other members of the school staff community. Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner so as not to threaten, intimidate, harass, or slander others.

It is the responsibility of all students to:

1. Be aware of and adhere to all rules and regulations regarding student behavior and conduct.
2. Be willing to volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety, and welfare of the school

Then display this table:

Personal morals	Student ethical code	legal under local, state, national or international law
Belief as to what is right or wrong for you	Expected or forbidden actions for members of a group based upon common values	Expected or forbidden actions as set by government officials

6. This lesson is not attempting to impose or change any student's personal morals. Their moral code includes their personal beliefs as to what is right and wrong.

7. Possible discussion questions: What is a moral code? Examples of your moral code? Do you have specific personal values or experiences that have shaped your moral code?

8. State you believe the school's Code of Student Conduct to be an example of an ethical code for CTC students. Anyone explain why?

Do all the students in the school have common values or things they think are important? Has the school set expected behaviors? Has school set forbidden behaviors? Examples from the Code of Student Conduct?

9. Then add "professional ethics" in the top box, next to "student ethical code."

What are examples of professions in America today? Is this class(shop) preparing you to become a professional? Does this profession have common values? Does it have expected and forbidden behaviors?

10. Ask students if they understand the difference between ethical and legal? Could an act violate the school code of student conduct and still be legal?

11. Example 1: If you would lose a tool or equipment assigned to you by your shop, that would violate the code of student conduct. You would have to pay for or replace that item. However, that alone would likely not violate a local, state or national law. Other examples?

12. Example 2 for Law Profession(optional): May a client's statement to his/her attorney be repeated by the attorney to a third person?

Explanation: In most situations, one person could repeat what they are told by another person to a third person. They are not breaking a law.

An attorney-client relationship is unique however. All attorneys get a license from the state in order to be allowed to represent clients. Because attorneys value honesty from their clients, they have agreed to require all attorneys not to repeat what they are told. Attorneys as a group, have made this an ethical rule of their profession. When you become an attorney, you have to accept this ethical rule.

Although it may be legal to repeat a client's statement, it would violate the attorney's ethical code of conduct to do it.

Pennsylvania attorneys receive their law license from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. If a client reports an attorney to the PA Supreme Court for breaking an ethical duty to that client, the PA Supreme Court will

investigate the report. If he/she has broken their ethical code, they could be punished up to and including losing their law license.

13. (May not apply) Example 3 from Shop's Profession/Trade developed by Instructor?

14. Legality: ask students to search "Pennsylvania crimes code online harassment" Title 18, Section 2709 will likely come up. Look at Section (a.1) Cyber harassment of a Child.

Was the student conduct in yesterday's hypothetical illegal in PA?
Answer is likely not because one event does not satisfy the element of "a continuing course of conduct...."

15. **Elements of Ethical Codes of Conduct:** Students should copy this:

Values	Beliefs held in common by students & staff
Expected conduct	Student actions promoting CTE education
Forbidden conduct	Student actions seen as hurtful or without purpose
Complaint process	Steps to be taken to bring incident to the attention of authorities
Trier of fact	Those responsible to determine if a violation has occurred and if so, what sanction, if any, will be imposed on the student
Sanction/Penalty	Penalty or reduction of student privileges

16. Next erase the right hand column. Ask students to fill in right hand column from text of Student Code of Conduct

17. Dilemma #2: Ralph and Jenna are seniors at your school. They are going out on a regular basis. Jenna and Haile are good friends. Ralph, Demetrius and Haile are all students in the same class(shop). Ralph and Demetrius have been friends for years. Jenna, a student in your class(shop), tells you she no longer wants to go out with Ralph. She now wants to begin dating Demetrius.

Ralph and Demetrius took the Final(NOTCI) exams together and both passed. However, when Ralph discovers Jenna wants to date Demetrius, Ralph goes mad with jealousy. Ralph tells the other school students, online during class and to other students in person, that Demetrius cheated on the Final(NOTCI) exam even though Ralph knows it is false. Ralph constantly tells other students and the teacher to stay away from Demetrius because he can't be trusted.

What do you think Haile should do?

18.Written Homework Assignment: What legal or ethical options does Haile have? Explain your answer in at least four complete sentences with one or more references to language in the school Code of Student Conduct to support your argument.

Suggested response is "Haile needs to read the Code of Student Conduct. It appears that Ralph may be attempting to bully Demetrius not to go out with Jenna any more. Ralph is also harassing Demetrius both during class(shop) sessions and through the school's Internet. In addition, by lying about cheating on the Final(NOCTI) Exam, Ralph is using slander to attempt to get Jenna back.

All three of these acts violate the school's Code of Student Conduct.

Haile is responsible to try to protect all students from the negative effects of bullying inside her class(shop). The school also says students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner so as not to threaten, intimidate, harass, or slander others. Haile should tell her class(shop) instructor what she knows.

19. Post assessment given. Report pre and post assessment scores and sample student writings to the administrator taking the PIL course. Thank you.