The Dark Side of Social Media: Cyberbullying & Internet Ethics

Mr. Yeung
Welcome to Mr. Yeung's Online Page

Here you will be able to access all my electronic resources that I use in class. Please click the menu bar above to navigate the site.
Welcome to Mr. Yeung's Online Page

Here you will be able to access all my electronic resources that I use in class. Please click the menu bar above to navigate the site.
Homophobic language isn’t always meant to be hurtful, but how often do we use it without thinking?

March 23rd, 2015

**Faggot** tweets

8,316

**Dyke** tweets

4,059

**No Homo** tweets

3,986

**So Gay** tweets

3,293
Homophobic language isn’t always meant to be hurtful, but how often do we use it without thinking?

March 24th, 2015

5,046 Faggot tweets
2,153 So Gay tweets
2,954 Dyke tweets
1,803 No Homo tweets
What is Cyberbullying?
What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying through social media and technology. Like traditional bullying, cyberbullying involves an imbalance of power, aggression and negative actions which constitute deliberate harassment of others.
Examples of Cyberbullying Include:

- Sending threatening messages
- Sending an electronic message suggesting that someone engage in self harm
- Spreading negative rumors via social media
- Ridiculing someone via text messaging or social media
- Establishing an account for the purpose of harming someone’s reputation.
Statistics

• 25% of teens report that they have been cyberbullied via cell phone
• 52% of young people report being cyberbullied
• Over half (52%) of all teens have witnessed outright cyberbullying
• 95% of teens admitted to ignoring the behavior
• Girls are more likely to be cyberbullied than boys
• Victims are more likely to suffer from low self-esteem and consider suicide as a result
Why do you think Cyberbullying is on the rise?
SixBillionSecrets.com
Why is Cyberbullying on the rise?

• Anonymity
  – The state of being unknown or unacknowledged

• Empathetic Disconnect
  – The inability to sense the emotions and feelings of the receipt of a message
  – No immediate emotional response from the target
Cyberbullying is such a serious problem that some victims have even ended their lives. Some of these cases have been reported in the news media:
A 12-year-old Lakeland girl was found dead early Tuesday morning, September 10, 2013, at an abandoned cement business in what her family is calling an apparent suicide.

"She has been bullied before and people had told her she needed to kill herself," Sedwick's sister, Summer Howard, said. "But we all thought she was fine now. No one had known."
Joshua Unsworth
April 7, 2013

“Joshua Unsworth’s body was discovered in the garden of his family’s farmhouse in the Lancashire area of England last winter. He allegedly was bullied for months leading up to his suicide, with anonymous commenters mocking his father’s job by calling Joshua “a farmer” and harassing him about his dating habits.”

Megan Meier
Consequences of Cyberbullying for the Victim

• Decrease in school performance
• Withdrawal from friends and family
• Depression
• Anxiety
• Running away
• Refusing to go to school
• Anger
• Helplessness
• Suicide
Consequences of Cyberbullying for the Perpetrator

“It was spur of the moment. I was with friend, so it was just messing around. I didn’t mean for her to see it all, it was just a joke with my friends. I thought only my friends on my Facebook would see it.”

-Keeley Houghton, 18 years old, was convicted of internet bullying in the UK and was incarcerated for three months after posting a threatening message to someone on Facebook.

- Cyberbullying can be addressed under civil or criminal law, based on the situation. This area of the law is rapidly evolving in the USA, and Canada.
Law in Canada

Depending on the exact nature of the cyberbullying behaviour, the following current *Criminal Code* offences could be charged:

- Criminal harassment
- Uttering threats
- Intimidation
- Mischief in relation to data
- Unauthorized use of a computer
- Identity fraud
- Extortion
- False messages, indecent or harassing telephone calls
- Counseling suicide
- Incitement of hatred
- Child pornography
- Defamatory libel
The victim can retaliate, leading to injury or death for the perpetrator and even innocent bystanders.

In April 2014, Alex Hribal, a student at Franklin Regional High School, went on a stabbing rampage at his school, stabbing 21 people, injuring several critically. He is facing 21 accounts of attempted homicide and other charges. Another student told WTAE that he was cyberbullied on Facebook the night before the stabbing rampage and that a screenshot of the comments was allegedly made available to the police. This same student indicated that she herself has been cyberbullied by classmates in text messages and on Facebook.
Intervention

It is necessary to intervene when cyberbullying occurs. The best ways to do that are:

• Encourage people to report incidents
• Reassure victims that they are not at fault for these actions and make counseling resources available
• Save cyberbullying messages as evidence
• Change cell phone numbers if the bullying is happening via text messages
• Spread word about cyberbullying.
• Schools should enforce strict rules
Internet Ethics

- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat
- Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail
- Soundcloud, Spotify
- PlayStation Network
- X-Box Live, Minecraft
- Youtube Account
- WhatsApp
- RedFlagDeals, Blogger
- Reddit
- Foursquare, Pinterest
- Tumblr
- Skype
Privacy Protection

• 1. Guard your contact information – such as cell phone numbers or e-mail addresses – and don’t give these out to people you don’t know.
• 2. Don’t share your passwords for instant messaging, e-mail or social networking site profiles.
• 3. Don’t open email or instant messages from strangers.
• 4. In Web environments where you are active, make sure you know who can access any information you are posting.
• 5. Don’t post any information (photos/ideas/text) that you wouldn’t want your teachers or parents to see.
• 6. Always check a website’s confidentiality policy before posting anything.
Think before you post