
When There's Trouble

1. Don't be afraid to tell an adult if you're feeling uncomfortable with any on-line situation. They won't freak out, and they'll do what they can to protect you.
2. Don't answer any messages or e-mails that are mean, hurtful, or weird. Save them, and show them to your parents or to a teacher you trust, and do report them to service provider (like the Security officer at MySpace,.)
3. Don't ever, ever, ever agree to meet anyone your parents haven't met. You may be mad at your parents right now, but how can you trust someone who won't let them see his face?
4. If you've posted a picture of yourself that shows your face, take it down. If you've posted a picture that you know wouldn't pass school dress code, take it down—you really don't want the kind of attention that will attract.
5. If someone starts a rumor about you on-line, don't confront them directly. It will only give them fuel to keep the rumor going. Instead, report it to your parents and to your teacher.
6. Change your password regularly, and don't use usernames that include your age or your real name, or that are designed to get attention (like "qTpie", which is guaranteed to attract perverts).
7. Tell your parents everything, right away. Be up front, and they can help you when you need them.



Using the Internet for School

1. Start your research in websites and databases your teacher gave you. It will probably save time, and it will get you more reliable information.
2. If you can copy-and-paste it, your teacher can find it too. Make sure the work you turn in is your own work.
3. Give credit where credit is due. That means saying where you got the quote or the picture, and remember that a bibliography always raises your grade. Here's a website that makes a bibliography easy: oslis.k12.or.us/secondary, look for "Citing Sources."
4. Remember that at the start of every school year you signed an agreement to behave on-line—that includes treating other people's data with care, not using electronic devices or internet sites to harass other people, and not spreading rumors. If you do, you can get in trouble at school, even if you didn't use a school computer.

Internet

Rules of the Road

Have Fun and Stay Safe



Rules of the Road

Rules of the Road for Kids On-Line

1. Be careful what and how you post—anything on-line can't ever be taken back, and can be found by teachers, future employers, and college admissions officers.
2. Don't put your last name, your school, your phone number, your address, or where you hang out with your friends where the rest of the world can read it. Teenagers should also guard their Social Security and Driver's License numbers.
3. Just because it's virtual doesn't mean it's not real. If you harass someone on line or spread rumors about someone, you're legally liable for it.
4. Someone who posts insulting or untrue things about you is just hoping to make you mad—the best way to frustrate them is not to answer. Save the evidence and show it to your parents or your school administrator, but don't feed the trolls!
5. Start your research projects in sites

your teacher gave you—you'll get more reliable information that way.

6. If you copy-and-paste from a website for your schoolwork, the teacher can find it as easily as you did. Make sure the work you turn in is in your own words!
7. Just because it's easy to download music doesn't make it legal—kids have been busted before. Make sure the website you download music from has the right to give it to you.
8. Never reveal anything private about other people, no matter how mad you are, and don't post pictures or video of other people without their permission.



Stay Undercover

Avoid giving out your full name, your mailing address, your telephone number, the name of your school, or any other information that may help someone determine your actual identity. The same goes for your family and friends.

Passwords should be tough to figure out, for good reason! Giving someone your password is like giving them the key to your house. Make it something no one can guess, and keep it secret.

Don't feed the trolls!

Never respond to E-mail, chat comments, instant messages, or newsgroup messages that are inappropriate or make you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

It isn't your fault if you get a message that makes you feel that way. If you get a message like that, don't respond. Instead, show it to your parents, guardians, or teacher and report the incident to your Internet service provider. Sending a response just encourages the person.