

Online Disinhibition & Cyberbullying

Media Literacy- Unit 1- Digital Citizenship

Learning Objectives

Define *online disinhibition* and describe how it can be both positive and negative.

Explain how anonymity, lag time, and lack of nonverbal cues all contribute to online disinhibition.

Analyze how online disinhibition can cause cyberbullying and brainstorm ways to counter it.



Essential Question

How does online disinhibition sometimes lead to cyberbullying?



Essential Vocabulary

“Cyberbullying”- Using digital devices, sites, and apps to intimidate, harm, and upset someone

“Online Disinhibition Effect”- When people behave differently online than they would in real life



Watch & Discuss

Discuss:

*What is your reaction to this story?

*Why might people target someone online like this?

*Do you think the people who posted these mean messages would say them to her in person? Do people act differently when they're online?



Watch & Contemplate



Take notes on the KQED *Above the Noise* video

"Is the Internet Making You Meaner?" by answering the questions on your handout.

Final Thoughts

Although online disinhibition can sometimes lead to positive outcomes, it can often cause people to make hostile or mean comments. These comments can cause toxic drama and can even lead to cyberbullying. To counter this effect, we can pause before we post and think about how online disinhibition -- anonymity, lag time, and lack of nonverbal cues -- might be impacting our ideas and words. Complete the table on your handout to analyze how online disinhibition might be countered.

