Cyberbullying
Dos and Don'ts

DISCUSSION:

Discuss with students the following information:

- What is digital communication? – texting, email and social networking sites.
- Why is it important to secure your identity and not share personal information online?
- What is the difference between appropriate and inappropriate conversations and posting?
- Why is it important to not "overshare" personal information online?
- Why should you not send or post something to others that you wouldn't say in person?
- Why should you not post something online that would be embarrassing for the whole world to see?
- What does this phrase mean: Once it's online, there's no getting it back.

ACTIVITY:

Give students the cyberbullying handout below. After they have answered, go through the answer key as a class and discuss.

Read through the list below and highlight the suggestions that would be helpful in preventing cyber-bullying:

- Only share your log-in information with friends.
- Only accept people you know on social networking sites.
- Be sure to record and report inappropriate messages/posts you receive.
- Be sure to respond or send a message back to any negative comment posted to your site.
- Use the privacy settings available for the account.
- Try to friend as many people as possible to impress other people.
- Posting personal information/photographs and private information to public sites is okay.
- Block telephone numbers for texting or so called "friends" who post negative information to your site.
- Change your account settings if you believe someone has acquired your information.
- Continue to post negative comments as a joke even when someone has asked you to stop.
- Never create a false online profile for yourself or another person.
- Allow other people to use your account or phone to send messages.
- Share information from another person's account without their permission.

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ANSWER KEY:

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- Block telephone numbers for texting or so called "friends" who post negative information to your site.
- Change your account settings if you believe someone has acquired your information.
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FOLLOW-UP:

Have students select a few tips from the list and expand on why these are good suggestions to follow.

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