

# **Assignment: Create your own online social contract**

## **Lesson 1, Student Activity 2**

Create three to five rules that you feel would be useful in an online social contract. Use the following words: respect, honesty, privacy, kindness.

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### **Dear Parents and Guardians:**

Your students are taking part in a program on cyberbullying (that is, bullying that takes place over the Internet). This assignment tests their understanding of concepts taught in class today. We encourage you to review the key points from the lesson outlined above and discuss their work on the assignment. Talk to them about their online activities and whether they have ever experienced cyberbullying or engaged in cyberbullying behavior themselves.

Please sign below to indicate that your child showed you this assignment. Thank you.

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Review of class discussions

1. What social contracts do we follow to when we are driving a car?  
Stop at stop signs or red lights, signal when making a turn, etc.
2. What happens when drivers ignore the rules (social contracts)?  
Traffic accidents, anger at other drivers, etc.
3. What are some examples of social contracts that people need to follow so our society works well and safely?  
We don't steal from others; we try to tell the truth; we avoid saying hurtful things, etc.
4. What are some examples of online devices?  
Cell phones, gaming devices, PDAs, computers
5. What are some tools you can use to interact with others online?  
Blogs, wikis, instant messaging, e-mail, text messaging, etc.
6. What can you do online to harm others?  
Share their personal information with strangers; harass or bully them in your email messages or IM; lie about them in your blog or a text message, etc.
7. What are some examples of online social contracts?  
We don't insult people in e-mail; we don't lie about a friend in a blog or text message; we don't give away personal or private information about people to strangers online, etc.
8. Why does the Internet make it easier for some people to disregard responsible social contracts?"  
You feel invisible; you can assume another identity or pose as someone else; you don't see the person online face to face, etc.
9. Why doesn't the Internet have strict rules of social conduct?  
The Internet is still very new and changing all the time. The online population is huge and diverse, involving different cultures from around the world. It takes time to assemble and communicate a set of acceptable rules that everybody will agree to follow. There is no single government or authority that controls the Internet that can lay down the rules and enforce them.
10. What is the Golden Rule, and how can you follow it online?  
You should treat others as you want to be treated. Online, you should be careful not to share personal or hurtful information about people with those you meet online, just as you wouldn't want somebody to share your personal information with strangers.
11. Define the word **empathy** and say how having empathy for others relates to following the Golden Rule.  
By being sensitive to and caring about how other people feel you can more easily avoid hurting them because you wouldn't want somebody else to make you feel bad.