

Tactics Cyberbullies use

Lesson 5, Student Activity 2

The following are tactics used by cyberbullies against their targets:

Bashing – Using the Internet to make contact and commit direct verbal or visual attacks at any time. Cyberbullies may post comments on blogs or send text messages from a phone. They may also take photos of targets or steal a photo from an online source to alter images in damaging ways or add cruel or derogatory comments and post them online for others to see. One very concerning trend is the videoing of students being beaten, and then having these posted on video sharing sites.

Exclusion – Being excluded from participating in online activities with their peers, which can bring on feelings of rejection. Exclusion may occur in an online gaming environment, group blogging environment, or any other password-protected community. Exclusion may also occur in an instant messaging or text messaging environment when a cyberbully pointedly excludes their target from the buddy list of a group of students.

Flaming – A heated, short-lived argument that often includes offensive, rude and vulgar language, insults and sometimes threats. Flaming can occur via text or instant messaging, in blogs of social networking sites, chat rooms, discussion boards, or online gaming sites.

Outing – Disclosing secrets or personal and private information about the target that embarrasses or humiliates him or her. A common way to “out” someone is to forward a message from the target that contains intimate, personal information to others.

Posing – A form of indirect attack where a cyberbully creates Web sites pretending to be the target, or, using the target’s user access information, posts defamatory comments on other sites; when the cyberbully pretends to be the target and says mean things about the target’s friends, it can cause those friends to reject them.

Matching Quiz: Now, test your understanding of these words by matching the correct definition to the word it correctly describes.

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| ___1. Bashing | A. An ongoing verbal argument in text or e-mail messages that include rude, offensive comments and/or threats |
| ___2. Exclusion | B. Pretending to be somebody else online and behaving in ways that offend others or humiliate the person they are posing as. |
| ___3. Posing | C. A series of harsh verbal attacks through various online means. |
| ___4. Flaming | D. Telling something about a target that causes him or her pain or embarrassment. |
| ___5. Outing | E. Excluding a student from a popular group or online Website. |

