



Should There Be a Cyberbullying Law?

By: Lori McDonald
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Technology
Grades 6-8



Introduction

With the increasing popularity of social media and the immediate access that most students have to it, cyberbullying has become a very significant problem among today's teen and pre-teen students. In this thought provoking activity, students will debate the pros and cons of a law against cyberbullying and write to defend their argument of such a law.

Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.1.A](#); Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.

Materials Needed

- Examples of cyberbullying and legal cases related to cyberbullying for discussion
- Copy of rubric for each student

Procedure

Warm-up Discussion – Start by beginning a conversation/debate about cyberbullying. Give examples and discuss the negative effects it has on teens (i.e. depression, suicide, etc.). Encourage students to share, if they are willing, their own experiences with cyberbullying.

1. After the class discussion, put students into small groups of 4 or 5 students each. Tell them they are legislators trying to determine how to create a law against cyberbullying and how it would be enforced.
2. Have each group make a list of the pros and cons of having such a law.
3. Come back together as a class and discuss the problems and benefits that such a law would create. What difficulties would there be in enforcement?
4. Students will then be given independent work time to write on the following prompt: Should there be a law against cyberbullying? Why or why not? Give specific examples to support your argument.

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Evaluation

After completing their writing, students can either complete a self-evaluation or exchange papers for a peer evaluation. Revisions should be made based on this evaluation and then submitted to the teacher for grading.

Categories	4	3	2	1
Sentences	8 or more complete sentences included.	6 or 7 complete sentences included.	4 or 5 complete sentences included.	3 or less complete sentences included.
Punctuation	All sentences end with correct punctuation.	Most sentences end with correct punctuation.	Some sentences end with correct punctuation.	Little or no sentences end with correct punctuation.
Capitalization	All sentences begin with a capital letter.	Most sentences begin with a capital letter.	Some sentences begin with a capital letter.	Little or no sentences begin with a capital letter.
Neatness	All words are neat and clearly written.	Most words are clearly written.	Some words are clearly written.	Illegible
Topic	All sentences are on-topic.	Most sentences are on-topic.	Some sentences are on-topic.	Little or no sentences are on-topic.