

Ethics and Consequences Lesson Plan

Title: Ethics and Consequences		Grade Range: 6-8
Integrated Curriculum Area: Language Arts	Concepts and Competencies: Writing, Research	Tool: Computer
Summary: Students answer questions about privacy, ethical issues and consequences for computer hacking, piracy, intentional virus setting, and invasion of privacy.		

Warm-up

- Make sure students have completed the EasyTech discussion lesson **Online Ethics**.
- Discuss the importance of etiquette and acceptable use policies while in the classroom, lab, or using the Internet or an intranet.

Activity

Students answer questions about ethical issues and consequences relating to protecting information:

- Students research and answer questions about computer hacking.
- Students research and answer questions about computer piracy.
- Students research and answer questions about intentional virus setting.
- Students research and answer questions about invasion of privacy.
- Students describe how computer hacking, piracy, virus setting and invasion of privacy issues can overlap.
- Students describe the purpose of an acceptable use policy at school.

Wrap-up

- Review some recent news articles about computer hacking, computer piracy, virus setting, or invasion of privacy, and compare students' ideas about those issues with actual situations in the news.

Extension

- Choose an issue relating to ethical use of computers and digital information. Have students choose sides and then debate the issue, or instead debate the overlaps the issue has with other digital ethics issues.

Name: _____

Ethics and Consequences Activity Page

What is computer hacking? Describe some examples.

What are the effects of computer hacking?

What are the possible consequences of computer hacking?

What is computer piracy? Describe some examples.

What are the effects of computer piracy?

What are the possible consequences of computer piracy?

What is intentional virus setting? Describe some examples.

What are the effects of intentional virus setting?

What are the possible consequences of intentional virus setting?

What is invasion of privacy? Describe some examples.

What are the effects of invasion of privacy?

What are the possible consequences of invasion of privacy?

What is an acceptable use policy and what is the purpose of the acceptable use policy in your school?

Ethics and Consequences Model (Teacher)

What is computer hacking? Describe some examples.

Computer hacking is illegally accessing, interfering with, modifying, or deleting information in a computer system. Examples of computer hacking include accessing files you do not have permission to view on the school computer system, breaking into a telephone system to get free phone service, or breaking into a bank's computer system to steal money.

What are the effects of computer hacking?

Computer hacking can harm a lot of people. By changing computer codes, the person or organization responsible for the code loses control of the information, and the hacker has control instead. This can lead to a lot of confusion.

What are the possible consequences of computer hacking?

Computer hackers who get caught may have to pay large fines or even go to jail.

What is computer piracy? Describe some examples.

Computer piracy is unauthorized duplication and distribution of computer software that is copyrighted. Copyrighted information is supposed to be protected from being used without permission. Some examples of computer piracy are copying software onto a disk in the school computer lab, or using installing the same copy of a piece of software on multiple computers.

What are the effects of computer piracy?

Computer piracy is the same as stealing. Because piracy costs companies a lot of money, it raises the prices of the software for everyone. It is against the law and also most acceptable use policies.

What are the possible consequences of computer piracy?

People who get caught pirating software may have to pay large fines or even go to jail.

What is intentional virus setting? Describe some examples.

A virus is a program that infects computer files by automatically reproducing itself in them.

Intentional virus setting means distributing a virus on purpose. One example of virus setting is sending a virus in an email attachment. When the person opens the attachment, the virus may infect the computer. Virus setting can also happen if you download a file from a network or a disk.

What are the effects of intentional virus setting?

Virus setting can destroy people's computer files. Viruses reproduce over and over and can grow out of control, just like a medical virus!

What are the possible consequences of intentional virus setting?

People who get caught setting viruses may have to pay large fines or even go to jail.

What is invasion of privacy? Describe some examples.

Invasion of privacy is getting personal or non-public information about someone or something and adjusting it without that person's permission. Some examples are reading someone else's email without that person's knowledge, recording a conversation without permission, or distributing another's information without getting permission first.

What are the effects of invasion of privacy?

Privacy is important, because there are some things that not everyone should see or know about. People lose trust when privacy is not respected. Invading privacy violates acceptable use policies too.

What are the possible consequences of invasion of privacy?

Since there are many ways to invade privacy, there is also a wide range of consequences.

But recording other people's conversations and making them available to others can lead to fines or time in jail. Reading someone else's email could mean losing a friend or losing email privileges in school.

What is an acceptable use policy and what is the purpose of the acceptable use policy in your school?

The purpose of the acceptable use policy at my school is to set guidelines about using computer networks, including the Internet. It gives information about what is acceptable and what is not acceptable. For example, our acceptable use policy states that we cannot copy any computer programs. The policy helps us know what is expected from us when we use the network.

Ethics and Consequences Rubric

Student Evaluation

- _____ Computer hacking is described and examples are written
- _____ Effects of computer hacking are described
- _____ Consequences for computer hacking are described
- _____ Computer piracy is described and examples are written
- _____ Effects of computer piracy are described
- _____ Consequences for computer piracy are described
- _____ Intentional virus setting is described and examples are written
- _____ Effects of intentionally setting viruses are described
- _____ Consequences for intentionally setting viruses are described
- _____ Invasion of privacy is described and examples are written
- _____ Effects of privacy invasion are described
- _____ Consequences for privacy invasion are described
- _____ Purpose of the school's acceptable use policy is described

Teacher Evaluation

- _____ Computer hacking is described and examples are written
- _____ Effects of computer hacking are described
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- _____ Computer piracy is described and examples are written
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- _____ Invasion of privacy is described and examples are written
- _____ Effects of privacy invasion are described
- _____ Consequences for privacy invasion are described
- _____ Purpose of the school's acceptable use policy is described