Teaching notes

This resource is designed to help students understand some of the issues surrounding engaging in an online environment. In particular they should:

- recognise that in the online world things may not be as they seem
- develop the concept of online citizenship
- identify the rights and responsibilities of online citizens
- understand the consequences of decisions in the online world.

Explore

In this section students are directed to the chat room activity in CyberNetrix, an internet safety resource for secondary school students provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) as part of the Australian Government’s cybersafety program. In this activity students discover some tips for staying safe when chatting online.

Teachers may wish to further explore the resources on cyber(smart). This site provides activities, resources and practical advice to help students and parents safely enjoy the online world. It also offers training and resources for schools and materials for library staff.

Additional resources for teachers are available on Buddi-e stay smart online.

Your tasks

**Task 1**

This activity allows students to consider some of the issues associated with participating in chat rooms. Some of the issues which could be discussed include protocols, privacy and safety issues, the use of avatars, appropriate salutations and expressions for the target audience, cultural differences and language register.

Students could discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using avatars, considering the perspectives of both the person creating it and the person viewing it. When would it be appropriate to use an avatar?

The discussion could be a small group or a whole class activity. If completed in groups, one member could report the group’s findings to the rest of the class. Were there commonalities or differences across the groups?

Additional online resources include:

- creating avatars
- cyberbullying
- online friends.
Task 2

In this activity students reflect on issues associated with the use of online translation sites. Students are asked to locate and test a number of online translation sites. They should enter some text from English and translate to a language they are studying and then enter that version to be changed back to English. Students should observe how close the final output is to the original English. What was the original sentence that became ‘Hit the formal dance with a small hairy nocturnal mammal’?

Students evaluate each site on a Word document pro-forma in terms of:

- whether it caters for their language
- accuracy and reliability
- the amount of text it can process.

Students could discuss implications or repercussions from inaccurate translations. Could inaccuracies reflect on them personally?

If students are having trouble locating translation sites, teachers could suggest:

- http://www.worldlingo.com/
- http://au.babelfish.yahoo.com/
- http://translate.google.com/

As additional stimulus material teachers could show students the YouTube video clip, A Wicked Deception to compare the original text with a version that has undergone several translations. Alternatively teachers could show students elements from the Funny translator website. Students may be blocked from these websites by the DET filter.

Task 3

In this activity students reflect on intercultural considerations when communicating via web cam.

Students could role play the suggested scenario, their first meeting with a would-be host family via web cam. Factors for consideration include: appearance and demeanour, gestures and body language, background, appropriate formality/informality of language.

The role plays are recorded and evaluated to assess intercultural appropriateness.

How to use this resource

This resource, Global citizen, is designed to support the Digital Education Revolution – NSW (DER-NSW) program and has a specific orientation towards teaching Digital Citizenship. The resources and tasks are aimed at supporting student use of the DER-NSW laptops in both online and offline classroom environments.

If you have difficulty viewing this resource on the DER-NSW laptop screens you can switch your web browser to full screen mode. With your web browser open press F11 to switch between normal and full screen mode.

For more detailed support on how to use the DER-NSW laptop software referred to in this resource please visit the TaLe Tools+ site.