

Digital Citizenship Lesson Plan
Forums Create Community

General Topic (as defined in the Digital Literacy Framework)	DC2
Digital Citizenship c) Relationships and Communication	
Applicable Grade Range	
K-2	
Outcome(s) to be Addressed	
The student understands how the ability for people to communicate online can unit a community.	
Importance / Significance of Lesson	
Forums can help students find out information they need and support them in developing their personal interests. Forums can be found on a variety of subjects and provide a bridge to building online communities.	
Duration	
20-30 minutes	
Overview	
Students will learn what a community is and how forums work. Students will then join a forum with their teacher and share an idea or message with the group. Please note: teachers will need to set up an account with a forum of interest to their class group prior to implementing this lesson plan. Teachers should read previous responses to ensure they are age appropriate conversations.	
Required Resources	
Computer hooked up to a projector Teacher account in the forum of their choice	

Lesson Plan and Extension Activities

Define 'community' for the class – a group of people that have the same interests, beliefs or general location. For example, your town could be called a community (same location) or people in your class could be considered members of the grade ____ community in the school.

Note that even though the internet is a huge place with lots of interesting sites to visit, there are also examples of communities online. People who like to play Poptropica online could form a community based on a common interest. People who really like Math can join groups and talk about adding and subtracting and all sorts of things – all about Math! Online communities often meet in places called forums.

Online forums (or chat rooms) are where people with similar interests can share information and talk about things they have in common. You can find forums on all sorts of subjects like different types of car owner forums, soccer player forums, games such as Monopoly or Yahtzee forums, etc. They even have Minecraft community forums! By creating an account with one of these forums, you can participate in discussions relevant to that community and find answers to all of your questions and help others that are struggling with something to do with that topic. Forum members can share ideas, post questions, answer other people's questions and talk about anything to do with their subject. It's like being in class and putting your hand up to ask a question, only there are a lot more teachers in the room!

Emphasize how important it is to never give out information about yourself online and that students should never agree to meet anyone in person unless their parents set up the meeting and go with them to make sure they are safe.

Also note that people will say inappropriate things on some forums (especially those that aren't monitored by an adult) and that if something someone says makes them feel uncomfortable, they should ignore or block that person and get an adult to help.

Take students on a tour to the forum that you have chosen, log in and show them some of the conversation threads. Talk about some of the responses and whether they were helpful or not, and then post your own comment or question and see what happens (may have to revisit later and most responses won't be immediate).

Adaptations

Young students may need assistance to read the content and posts in forums.

Older students can research forums that they could join based on personal interest. Emphasize safety practices and obtain parental permission before using them in class.

Additional Resources

Lists of forums to join:

<http://www.kidzworld.com/forums>

<http://community.scholastic.com/all-kids-boards.html> - by Scholastic

Search forums based on topics of interest to the class – be sure to read a few posts to ensure they are appropriate before using them in class.

Cross-curricular Outcomes Also Addressed

Language Arts – reading and writing for information

Social Studies – research skills

Many subjects can be researched using forums

~developed by Kristin Sward, 2014



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