Digital Citizenship Lesson Plan

For Better or For Worse

General Topic (as defined in the Digital Literacy Framework)	DI1
Digital Citizenship i) Balanced Attitude Towards Technology	
Applicable Grade Range	
3-5	
Outcome(s) to be Addressed	
The student understands that the digital environment can make things better or worse depending on how we use it.	
Importance / Significance of Lesson	
Students have access to a vast amount of information, resources, how-to videos and opportunities to practice their skills thanks to the internet and all that it has to offer. However, there is also a great potential for harm in the ability for people to post misinformation, to comment and act in a negative way towards others and to access and use other people's personal information. Students need to be aware of both the good and the bad aspects of the internet and find ways to promote being a responsible digital citizens who acts in positive, moral and responsible way.	
Duration	
30 minutes Reference to ideals of digital citizenship will be made throughout the year.	
Overview	
Students will make a list of pros and cons of the internet and access to technology. They will then look at resources that provide positive and negative aspects of the internet and share examples with their friends.	
Required Resources	
Computer hooked up to a projector Class set of laptops/access to the computer lab OR class set of iPads/iPods	

Lesson Plan and Extension Activities
Start out by putting a t-chart on the board with Positives on one side and Negatives on the other. Ask students to think about their own experiences with the internet and the positive and negative aspects of it in their opinions. Record their suggestions and talk briefly about each one.

Have students read and discuss http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What's_good_about_Internet_and_what's_bad_about_Internet and http://www.vtstutorials.ac.uk/detective/goodbadugly.html (this resource is quite long and may be used simply for the main points made). As students develop new ideas through their readings, add them to the list on the board.

Emphasize that though there will always be negative aspects of the internet including misinformation, people who aim to take advantage of others and diminishing personal connections, the positive benefits of having access to information and resources, being able to communicate easily with people all over the world and the ability to learn about any topic when and where you need to outweigh the bad. As long as we use it for good and ignore the bad, we should be able to work and learn in a safe environment. |

Adaptations
Younger students will need the resources read and summarized but will benefit from the general ideas presented within.
Older students can brainstorm effective ways to use the internet and how they can promote responsible use in their school.

Additional Resources
http://www.proconlist.com/pro-con-lists/internet cons may have to be glossed over due to content
http://lifestyle.iloveindia.com/lounge/pros-and-cons-of-the-internet-14005.html

Cross-curricular Outcomes Also Addressed
Language Arts – reading for information.

~developed by Kristin Sward, 2014