

NAME _____

Date: _____

Cyberbullying

Kelly isn't popular and a group of other students sometimes make fun of her clothes and accent. Eventually, a teacher hears their comments and gives them detention. The next day, Kelly hears that an email is going around school asking people to sign a petition declaring her "officially worst-dressed," with pictures from her Facebook profile attached. The email is sent from an anonymous address but everyone at school has seen it and is forwarding it to their friends.

If you were Kelly, how would you handle this situation?

If you received this email, what would you do?

Jason and Mark get into an argument at school, and Jason backs down first because he's afraid of having a physical fight with Mark. That evening, Jason goes online and writes nasty comments on Mark's wall and pictures.

What risks is Jason taking by flaming Mark's profile?

How else could Jason have responded to the argument with Mark?

If you were Mark, how would you handle the situation?

Sam's friend Carly used a computer in library to check her email and forgot to log off when she was done. As a joke, Sam used her account to send a crude joke to the principal and several teachers and signed it "Carly".

Who is going to get in trouble over this email?

What should Sam have done when he noticed Carly had forgotten to log off?

If you were Carly, how would you handle the situation?

What could Carly do to protect herself in the future?

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Too Much Information, Too Many Readers

Angela frequently uses her personal blog to vent when she is frustrated or upset. She likes writing about her feelings in her blog, instead of in a paper diary, because her friends can read the entries and offer supportive comments. After a tough track practice one day, she blow off steam by writing an entry called "Jill's Jiggles," describing how her heavier teammate Jill looks when she runs and wondering "why Coach Johnson even let someone that slow on the team." Angela doesn't realize Jill knows about her blog until the next day, when Coach Johnson calls her in to tell her that her comments were unacceptable, that Jill is extremely hurt, and that he is suspending Angela from the upcoming meet.

Angela would never have made fun of Jill to her face. Why might she have felt like it was okay to do so in her blog?

How might Jill have found out about Angela's blog entry?

What could Angela have done differently to keep from hurting Jill's feelings?

Was Coach Johnson infringing on Angela's privacy by using the blog entry to suspend her from a track meet? Why or why not?

What are other possible unintended consequences of this blog entry?

Tyler is hoping to get a summer job as a messenger at a law office, which will pay well and look great on his college applications. His interview with the office supervisor goes well. As a final check, the supervisor asks a law clerk with a Facebook account to check out the profiles of the messenger applicants. The clerk shows her Tyler's photo album from the Homecoming game, which has several pictures of him shirtless and making a rude gesture, with comments that show he and his friends obviously think they're hilarious.

If you were the office supervisor for a well-known, respected law firm, would you give Tyler the job?

Tyler's Facebook profile is how he keeps up with his friends. How is it fair for the law office to judge him based on it?

Who else besides potential employers might draw conclusions about Tyler based on his Facebook photos? Think of at least three possibilities.

What could Tyler have done to make a more positive impression with his online image?

Lisa finds a bunch of old photos that her mom has been scanning and saving on the computer. There are several pictures of Lisa with Kristin, who were best friends until Kristin moved away in 9th grade. For old times' sake, Lisa decides to upload some of the pictures to an album on Facebook. She thinks it's funny to see their haircuts and middle school fashion sense, and a couple of her current friends post teasing comments on the pictures. Later, Lisa gets a call from

Kristin, who is really upset about the pictures. "I don't want people to know what a dork I was!" she tells Lisa. "I can't believe you posted those. I'm totally humiliated now."

Does Kristin have any control over who posts pictures of her online?

How could Lisa's photos affect Kristin?

What should Lisa have done to prevent Kristin getting upset?