Cyberbullying & Parental Involvement

By: Jessica Shaffer
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**Technology
Grades 6-8**

Introduction

Cyberbullying is a major issue that children face in this age of technology. With various social media platforms such as Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, as well as text messaging, children have a lot of virtual interaction with one another. Cyberbullying can lead to serious issues within children such as anxiety, depression, and even suicide in some extreme cases.

Learning Objectives

WALT use the writing process to create a persuasive essay about whether or not parents should have full access to their children's cell phones and social media accounts.

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1.A
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1.B

Materials Needed

- Pre-Writing graphic organizer
- Writer's checklist
- Additional activities
- Chromebook/tablet/computer

Procedure

1. Have a class discussion about cyberbullying and students' background knowledge of cyberbullying. This may spark a lengthy discussion and students may share many personal experiences or stories of others they know or have seen on the news. Make sure prior to the discussion you remind students that the classroom is a safe place to share. Another good idea would be to tell students if there is any experience that they wish to share that they do not feel comfortable with sharing in the front of the class, they can leave a Post-It note on your desk and you can discuss it in private.

2. Watch videos and read articles about cyberbullying. Have students research more articles and statistics on cyberbullying. Make sure to preview all before assigning as websites and contents change frequently. Make sure the information is appropriate for the grade level you are teaching.

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- BrainPOP: Cyberbullying
- BrainPOP: Related Reading/More Resources on Internet
- Edpuzzle: Cyberbullying
- Edpuzzle: Cyberbullying Story (Emma)
- Stopbullying.gov: Cyberbullying Articles
- Teen Cyberbullying Article
- Cyberbullying Articles and Facts

3. Have students fill in a graphic organizer to organize ideas. Students need to determine their viewpoint and three supporting details to back their viewpoint up.

4. Have students begin to create their persuasive essays. The first part will be the introduction. In the introduction, students should include:

- The introduction should "hook" or grab the attention of the reader.
- The viewpoint should be clearly stated.

5. Have students create the body of their essays. There should be at least three paragraphs of supporting details.

- These should all be statements that "back-up" the student's viewpoint in the introduction. The supporting details should always relate back to the viewpoint and the main idea in the opening paragraph.
- Include a topic sentence in each paragraph.
- Different types of supporting details.
    - Include data and statistics if possible
    - Use real-life examples
    - Use your own experiences or observations
    - Use facts
    - Use opinions

6. Have students create the conclusion for their essay.

- Restate your viewpoint and supporting details.
- Have a strong last sentence, or "clincher", in the essay. This is what will leave a lasting impression on the readers.

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7. Teachers will conference with students as they create their writing piece. If teachers do not wish to conference with the students, the teacher can instead monitor the work being completed and help on an as-needed basis.

8.   When the rough draft of the essay is completed, students should have one or two peers edit the essay and make the appropriate changes.

9. Students will reread their essay one more time, make the final edits, and create the final draft of their essay.

Assignment: The teacher should have two assignments/activities that correlate with cyberbullying for the early finishers or for those students waiting to conference. These should count as classwork grades. The assignments are valuable because they could give students ideas for writing, but also expand their knowledge of the importance of wireless internet.

• KidsKonnect: There are many great worksheets and a lot of good information available on this website.

Optional Assignment/Extension: The students can participate in a debate on cyberbullying. This is a great activity for middle school students in order to prepare them for high school and beyond. When the essay is complete, students can work in teams to prepare for the debate. You can split the class into smaller groups and have them participate in timed debates. This is something that often gets the students excited, and it also further incorporates ELA speaking standards.

Evaluation

You should use the writing rubric that your district requires to grade the writing. You can use the checklist, rough draft, and optional assignments as classwork grades