

For any scenario you rate as a 3, 4 or 5, think about who is responsible, who should take action and what action should be taken.

1. A student posts a negative review of a concert given by another student's band. The review focuses on the band members' skill as musicians and the quality of their music.
1 2 3 4 5
2. A student tweets that one of the teachers at his school is unqualified to teach. The teacher's name is not used, but he is clearly recognizable to anyone who knows him.
1 2 3 4 5
3. A teacher discovers a website that is intended to mock a student in her class and will likely lead to the student being harassed at school. The site was not created at school and is not hosted on school computers (though it can be accessed from them).
1 2 3 4 5
4. A student uploads to YouTube a video of his band performing a song that makes fun of teachers. No specific teacher is named or is identifiable from the song.
1 2 3 4 5
5. A student writes a letter to the school administration stating that a teacher has used improper discipline in class.
1 2 3 4 5
6. A student creates a fake Facebook profile in the name of another student in the class. The other student is Middle Eastern and the profile contains photos of him doctored to look like Osama Bin Laden and statements, supposedly made by him, supporting terrorism.
1 2 3 4 5
7. A student finds that photos of her, which were taken by her (now ex-) boyfriend have been shared publicly on Instagram. Then they were copied and reproduced in many more places, including photo-sharing sites. Her ex-boyfriend says that he is not responsible for what was done with the photos after he uploaded them.
1 2 3 4 5
8. A student writes a private email to his girlfriend accusing her of cheating on him.
1 2 3 4 5
9. A teacher asks students in her class to help write holiday greetings in a variety of languages for the school's website. Without the teacher's knowledge, one of the students' contributions is a false and insulting statement against another teacher.
1 2 3 4 5



10. A student posts a picture of her boyfriend on her Instagram account with the hashtag #cheatingslime.
1 2 3 4 5
11. A student discovers that other students in his class have created an online poll in which students are invited to vote on which students in the class should be beaten up.
1 2 3 4 5
12. A student creates a website in which she criticizes school policies and suggests that several teachers, whom she names, are overly strict in their discipline.
1 2 3 4 5
13. A student creates a Facebook group in which he states that one of his teachers is a space alien who is scheming to abduct students and take them to her home planet.
1 2 3 4 5
14. A student sends frequent emails to his ex-girlfriend. When she asks him to stop, he sends more emails, many of which contain abusive language.
1 2 3 4 5
15. A teacher discovers that students are being pressured by a popular student to remove an unpopular student from their Facebook “friends” lists.
1 2 3 4 5

Selections from the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it, subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

This means that everyone has the rights listed in the Charter. In some cases those rights may be limited if they interfere with other people’s rights.

Section 2 of the *Charter* states that everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
- (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
- (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
- (d) freedom of association.

This means that everyone is free to think and believe what they want. Everyone is free to express themselves and to gather peacefully with anyone they want.



Section 7 of the *Charter* states that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

This means that nobody can have their safety threatened or their freedom limited. The exception is that you can be put in jail if you have committed a crime. This includes a right to be protected against attacks on your reputation.

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* guarantees the rights set out in it to all children in countries that have are signatories to it, including Canada.

Articles 12 and 13 of the *Convention* state that children have the right to their opinions, and to express themselves. These rights should only be limited out of respect for others' rights or to protect public health or public safety.

That means that you can believe what you want, and say (draw, film, etc.) what you want, but you should respect other people's rights when you do. You also can't say things that would directly hurt other people, for instance by making them panic.

Article 16 of the *Convention* states that children have the right to privacy.

Article 17 of the *Convention* states that children have the right to access information through books, TV, the Internet and other media.

Article 19 of the *Convention* states that children have the right to be protected from being hurt, either physically or emotionally.

Cyberbullying Case Study

(What follows is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to real people, places or situations is purely coincidental.)

Scott, a Grade 9 student, transferred to a new school halfway through the semester. He quickly connected with the other students who are on Facebook and made friends with some of them at school as well.

After a while, though, Scott noticed that his friends list was shrinking as people removed him from their friends lists. He was puzzled by this at first until one of his offline friends told him that Colin, a Grade 11 student, had gotten angry at Scott because he had seen Scott talking to Linda, Colin's ex-girlfriend. Colin had begun to pressure everyone he knew to remove Scott and Linda from their friends lists on Facebook and to ignore them at school as well.

One afternoon in the computer lab, Scott got angrier and angrier at Colin and his friends. Since he had finished his work for the period, he decided to start a Facebook group called "Why I Hate Colin" and he invited everyone still on his friends list to join it. It turned out that there were quite a few people at the school who did not like Colin and his friends, and Scott's group grew quickly. Whenever the message traffic on the group slowed, Scott would try to boost it by posting some shocking accusation about Colin, such as suggesting that he had cheated on Linda or that he had hit her when they were dating (Linda was not involved in the group and had never said any such thing).

Soon other members of the group started to make their own accusations and suggestions about Colin, some even saying that Colin should have water balloons thrown at him when he went up the main stairway. Scott responded to that suggestion saying rocks should be thrown instead.



After a few weeks, one of Colin's friends discovered the group and reported it to him. Colin told his parents and they decided to report it to the principal and keep him out of school until things had been worked out, as well as to report what Scott had done to the police.

General Questions

- Who is the perpetrator in this case? Who is the target?
- What acts of cyberbullying have happened in this case? How serious would you rank each one as being?

Group Questions

- **Scott:** How can you defend your actions?
- **Colin:** Was what you did cyberbullying as well? If so, how can you accuse Scott? If not, why not?
- **Colin's parents:** What should school and civil authorities do about this case? Why?
- **Other members of Scott's Facebook group:** What can you do, and should you have done, in this case? Why?
- **Teacher:** What can you do, and should you have done, in this case? Why?
- **Police:** Should criminal charges be laid in this case? If so, which ones and why? If not, prepare an explanation for the target's parents as to why not..

