The Ups and Downs of Digital Life

grades 6-8

Student Discussion Guide

Video Discussion Questions

Directions

Reflect on your place in the connected culture. Your teacher will lead you through a discussion, asking you to think about your own digital lives, as well as the activities of your friends, families, and society. You will reflect on the many positive, and sometimes negative, aspects of your digital life.

1. *What are some of the ways that kids in the video participate in digital life? Do you do any of those things? How else do you use the Internet for good purposes?*

2. *What did the girl in the video mean by saying the Internet could be "messy"?*

3. *Do you think there are ways that digital media can make relationships stronger? Are there ways that digital media can ruin relationships?*

4. *Why do you think the girl in the video said that she didn't want people to "know who she was"? How do you feel about people knowing your identity online?*

5. *What misconceptions do parents have about what students do with digital media?*

6. *Some people say that kids know more about digital media in their lives than adults, such as parents and teachers, do. What do you think?*

7. *What did the girl in the video mean when she says, "It's easier to experiment online"?*

8. *Students talked about "commenting on other people." What did they mean by this? What are the potential good things about that? What are some negatives?*

9. *One girl in the video said that she got a lot out of other people commenting on her work. Have you ever gotten feedback for something you did online? Was it a good experience? Why or why not?*

10. *What are some of the things the kids in the video said about respecting creative work? What do you have to be careful about online?*

11. *The boy in the video said the Internet was like Spiderman. What did he mean by that? Do you agree?*

12. *What does it mean to be a good digital citizen? What are some examples of being a good digital citizen? What does it mean to be a bad digital citizen? What are some examples of being a bad digital citizen? In what ways are you a good digital citizen?*