

4 Ways to Get Started Teaching Digital Citizenship



So you know what digital citizenship is and why it's important. But you may be wondering: How do I get started teaching it? Wonder no more! We've put together four activities you can use to introduce digital citizenship to your students, with added resources to help you get started. Depending on the grade level you teach, choose one activity and get started teaching digital citizenship in your classroom today!

Grades K-2

Share the **Pause & Think Online** video with younger elementary school students to spark a discussion about how their digital world is connected to their real world. Once your students watch the video, use the questions in this **discussion guide** to help them think through the main ideas. Then print out the **Pause & Think Online posters** and hang them in your classroom as a reminder to be safe and kind when using the internet -- just like they'd be on the playground.

Grades 3-5

Show the video **Eva's Story - When Messages Spread** to older elementary school students to start a discussion about the nature of online communication. After they watch the video, have them work through the questions in this **discussion guide** to deepen their thinking about the main points of the video. Then introduce core lessons of digital citizenship by printing out the **All Digital Citizens** poster and hanging it up in your classroom.

Grades 6-8

Play the **Oversharing: Think Before You Post** video for your students to introduce them to the concept of being mindful before posting anything online. Follow up with these **discussion questions** to help students connect the lessons from the video to their own lives. Then print out the **Top 10 Things to Think About Before You Post** poster and display it in a visible area in your classroom to set the tone for the rest of the year.

Grades 9-12

Have your students read and discuss one or more of the scenarios from the **Digital Dilemmas** downloadable. Once they've read the dilemma and thought about their responses to the discussion questions, ask them to share their reactions in pairs or small groups. As they discuss, walk the room to ask additional questions and encourage students to reflect. This activity can spark a healthy dialogue about teens' digital lives and help them think critically and thoughtfully when they use technology.

Once you've introduced the concept of digital citizenship to your students, you can take it a step further by designating some time to teach a topic-focused lesson that is relevant to your class. Our **Digital Citizenship Curriculum** is filled with easy-to-use lesson plans that you can filter by grade band and specific topics like cyberbullying and online safety.

For more digital citizenship resources, sign up for the Digital Classroom newsletter. It goes out weekly and is filled with the latest tips from the Digital Citizenship Team at Common Sense.