

Cell Phone Safety: Is This Thing Killing Us?

TOPIC: ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY

GRADES 6-8

LESSON DURATION: TEACHER DISCRETION

SOFT SKILLS: COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION, RESEARCH

Introduction:

- Cell phones have become a staple in American households. We spend more time on our mobile devices each day than we do on eating. However, many of us never stop to think about the dangers of mobile devices. This project will allow students to research and develop safety tips in one area of cell phone safety. Students will collaboratively develop a presentation for educate classmates while utilizing school technology.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will develop safety standards for cell phone usage.
- Students will work collaboratively to utilize technology to present their findings.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Access to presentation software of students choosing

Activities:

1. Place students in small groups. Assign each group one of the topics below:
 - Cell phones and health concerns
 - Cell Phone Etiquette
 - Cell Phone Safety-Gaming and Online Chat
 - Cell Phone Safety-Social Media
 - Cell Phone Safety-Bluetooth and Wi-Fi (give to most tech-savvy group)
 - Cell Phone Safety-Apps Good v the Bad
 - Cell Phone Safety-Location Settings
2. Allow students to research a list of safety tips. Students should begin by listing their different tips. They should research but can also brainstorm. Then students should begin to find supporting evidence for the tips on their list. Examples include statistics, graphs, charts, stories, etc. The goal is to show that the tips are solid and research-based. Explain that they will eventually create a presentation with the safety tips. Students should find at least 2 different websites (.gov, .org are preferable).

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3. Check student work. Once they have a good healthy list, allow them to create their presentation. Students should create a safety video highlighting the tips that they created. Videos should be 3-5 minutes in length. Allow them creativity in their creation but also remind them of appropriate language and jokes.
4. Teacher can create a rubric as necessary.
5. Allow students time to watch each other's work.
6. Consider showing good videos to the whole school, if technology allows.

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