

Topic: Science and Technology

Badge: Netiquette

Suggested Supplies:

Pen or Pencil

Ruled or plain paper

Laptop or tablet



Helpful websites: (Have adult permission to go online)

Social Media Safety-[click here](#)

Using Social Networks safely-[click here](#)

Creating a profile-[click here](#)

Smart Social Networking Tips-[click here](#)

[Read and complete the Internet Safety Pledge](#)

- **Grab a Journal and gather tips for your own list of “Netiquette Rules to Live By.” In steps 1-4, you’ll create your list of tips.**

Steps: (Every step has multiple choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step.)

Step 1: Explore “oops!” and “wow!” moments. Oops! It happens every day-somebody hits “send” or posts something that causes anger, hurt, or embarrassment for herself and others. To kick off this badge, explore the impact of an “oops.” Look for the “wow” moments, too: Online communications can cause as much good as not-so-good. Add to your list the tips you find on avoiding the oopses and increasing the wows.

Choices-Do one:

- **Brainstorm some “oops” and “wow” tips with friends or family.** Spend at least a half hour sharing these two kinds of moments-those you’ve heard about from friends or family or those you’ve read about. Then discuss what tips you can learn from these real-life stories and add them to your list.
- **Interview someone with a job that involves sending lots of e-mails.** Find out their stories of “oops” in the workplace. What happened, and what were the consequences? Do they have any tips on avoiding the “oops” moments? Ask for an on-the-job moment when digital communication has caused good.
- **Read four published stories.** First, find two stories about people who’ve sent or posted messages that caused hurt-for themselves, for others, for family, or for their job. What have those involved learned? Now look for two stories about how online communication has caused good.

Step 2: Dig into stories of “ouch-and repair some hurt if necessary. Take a closer look at how online communications can be misunderstood, resulting in some “ouch” moments. Texting and IMing can be culprits since it’s so quick and easy to send a message. As you do one of these choices, add to your list of netiquette tips.

Choices-Do one:

- **Go through your last 50 texts. Quiz yourself about each one.** Are there any you feel ashamed about sending or that might have caused hurt? Would any cause hurt if they got forwarded? And would you be comfortable saying each thing to the recipient’s face? After your review, clear the air with a live conversation if necessary!
- **Interview a psychologist, guidance counselor, minister, or expert in emotional health.** Find out about how they’ve seen digital “ouches” impact young people. With this expert’s guidance, brainstorm with your group to get ideas for helping people stop these behaviors and for helping someone who’s been hurt by them. Add the ideas to your netiquette list. If this process makes you realize where some miscommunication might have happened in your life, take this chance to clear the air.
- **Start a kindness practice.** Every day for two weeks, go out of your way to send a message via text, e-mail, or social media praising others for something well done. Notice how other people respond and use that information to add tips to your list. This is a great chance to repair some “ouch” moments in your life, if any have cropped up!

Step 3: Look at e-mail, commenting, or blogging. Everyone uses the Internet in their own way. You may post a lot of comments, belong to a gaming community, have your own blog, or share information in tweets or via email. Do the choice below that’s most relevant to your net self. Use what you find out to add to your netiquette rules.

Choices-Do one:

- **Get into e-mail etiquette.** E-mail is used for business and more formal online communications, and being able to use it considerately and correctly is an important part of your online persona. You’ll want to know how to be effective when you land the first internship. Give five business people the e-mail etiquette quiz ([located here](#)) to find out what they prefer.
- **Find your best commenting voice.** At best, threads of commentary following blog posts or social media profiles can be like a Q and A session after a talk, offering more ideas or support for someone’s accomplishment or idea. At worst, they’re places for people to have fun at others’ expense. In the middle ground are comments like “cool”-they’re positive, but don’t encourage discussion. Find five examples of useful comments and five not-so-great comments. Review them-what do they have in common? What rules would you add to your list about useful commenting?
- **Good net sportsmanship.** Poll gamers about the kind of online sportsmanship they like to see. You might look at recent articles about gaming etiquette for ideas. Then add some tips for your growing list.

Step 4: Decide what makes a great social media profile. Consumer organizations find that teenagers tend not to use privacy settings on social media sites wisely. Often, it's because they assume the information is for friends only (that's true only if you set it that way). Then there's the issue of whether friends of friends can see your info-and if you want them to. How would you feel if you went on a friend's Facebook page and saw she posted "Bored to death right now" while she was hanging out with you? Use the questions ([here](#)) to guide you in this step.

Choices-Do one:

- **Create a character profile.** Create a pretend social media profile for a character from a book or movie. Think of some good and not-so-good details to share in your character's profile. Share this with an adult and come up with dos and don'ts for creating social media profiles.
- **Get feedback on a profile of your own.** Create a profile you might use for an online group. Then ask for feedback from friends your age, older friends, and adults. (If you already have an online profile, use this choice to ask for feedback on your profile, then edit it with advice you receive.)
- **Read three stories that discuss profiles.** These could be personal or news stories about creating them, choosing pictures for them, what they say about you, or how companies use them when hiring. Add some tips to your "rules to live by"

***If you create a personal profile in the choice you pick, you don't need to post it to complete this step.**

Step 5: Spread better practices. Chances are, you got a lot of notes after the last four steps. That's a lot of great advice to share with others to help them stay safe, sound and successful online. Spread the word about best practices in netiquette through one of these choices.

Choices-Do one:

- **Make it a pledge.** Turn your tips into a netiquette pledge. Sign the bottom to commit to putting the pledge into action-and to inspire others to do so. Then share it with friends, family, teachers, or Girl Scout Friends.
- **Edit into a top 10.** Review the tips you've gathered and see if they fit into larger categories. Can you edit them into 10 top rules-then add some pizzazz? Include art, stories that illustrate your points, anecdotes-anything that will help others understand why each tip is important. Share your list in a slideshow, blog post, social media posting, email or in another appropriate way.
- **Present it.** Find the common themes in your tips, and turn them into a fun monologue, scene, or skit.

***Once completed, this badge can be purchased at the Girl Scout shop for \$3.00 at:**

<https://www.girlscoutshop.com/CADETTE-NETIQUETTE-BADGE>

***Be sure to fill out your [Virtual Badge Completion Survey!](#)**