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Keep Your Students Aware

A teen is in their room, crying. They found an altered image of themselves where, instead of themselves having a head, they have a turkey leg atop their torso, and the caption, “Patsy? More like Fatsy!” Cyberbullying like this is the result of someone neglecting to be a conscious creator of content. This can happen either because the original creator of content either didn’t know how to be a conscious creator of content, or because they simply didn’t care to be one. This is why it is important for educators to educate their pupil about being a CCoC, and the importance of it.

Neglecting to be a conscious creator of content could lead to aspects of the poster’s life going awry. Posting inappropriate content, such as images of one drinking alcohol or a line of text that makes fun of someone, can be seen by anyone (even if you post it on a private account!), and anyone includes persons of authority. If, somehow, your boss manages to see something inappropriate that you posted/is related to you, you could easily be fired or demoted, which would lead to a drop in your income. This can lead to your quality of life lowering, or even you losing your home. College Recruiters also look for you on the internet. In fact, almost 24% of college recruiters admit to looking up a college candidate’s name on google and/or social media (Ivester). If they found something that deemed the candidate inappropriate, they would decide into to recruit them into their college.

“Anyone” doesn’t just include authority figures, but your peers and strangers as well. If you post something that is offensive to a certain group of people, that group will likely retaliate. For example, a UCLA student named Alexandra Wallace posted a video rant titled “Asians in the Library” that showed her ranting about how Asians supposedly terrorized her campus, especially the library. This caused anti-racists (which was basically everyone) to shun and, in some cases, physically confront her. This lead to her time in UCLA being a nightmare, so her only option was to leave the school of her dreams to avoid the ridicule that was so prominent there.

Posting inappropriate content about others isn’t the only thing that can get you in trouble with society. Posting/sending naked or provocative images of yourself (otherwise known as “nudes”) can lead to major issues. These issues include revenge porn (the act of an ex posting nude photos or porn of their ex as an act of revenge), leaking nudes, and blackmail. All of these can easily ruin somebodies life, especially if they are in a position of authority or leadership. For example, a young woman by the name of Amanda Todd was on Omegle (a random video chat room) once flashed her cleavage to a random person under the suspicion that he would not be able to share her exposed self with anyone else. However, the random person managed to get a screenshot of her while her shirt was up, and later threatened to send it to people if she didn’t “put on a show” for him. The image of her was sent out to the public and her reputation was ruined. She eventually killed herself (Amandatoddlegacy.com). Another example is the case of Felix Arvid Ulf Kjellberg, aka “Pewdiepie”. Pewdiepie is one of the most famous internet personalities and is constantly under watch. During one of his recent livestreams, the “n” word managed to slip out of his mouth, and although he immediately apologized for it, he still received major flak, and many of his major advertisers pulled out (Vox).

Neglecting to be a conscious creator of content can also harm others. This is known as cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is bullying someone through the use of the internet, and can come in many. This has caused many teenagers to hurt themselves (i.e. cutting themselves) and, in extreme cases, kill themselves. An example of this is the case of Tyler Clementi. Tyler Clementi was a homosexual college student who would have his boyfriend over in his dorm room to hang out and do “relationship things”. On two separate occasions, his roommate left a camera on in the room and recorded Tyler and his boyfriend making out and posted them. These videos were seen by many homophobic people, and they publicly and digitally bullied Tyler for his homosexuality, which led Tyler to develop of sense of hopelessness. Two days after the second video was posted, Tyler killed himself. Cyberbullying is a serious issue because when someone bullies someone online, they don’t see the victim’s reaction for the most part. This keeps them from feeling as much sympathy as they would otherwise, and so they do not realize that it causes as much damage as it actually does.

Students of a school reflect the school. What I mean by this is that when a student performs an act (good or bad) that gains popularity, the content of that actions is perceived as “from [insert school of student]”. For example, a student from Clovis High tweeted some very racially insensitive things, and the tweets became the recipients of widespread local flak. The media described the original poster as “a CUSD student”, which gave a negative connotation not only to other CUSD students, but CUSD as well.

The administration should care for their students. For school to give us the maximum amount of education and growth, the students must feel safe. To feel safe, cyberbullying can’t be a looming threat. Therefore, in order to improve your students’ learning and growth capabilities, eliminating cyberbullying is a must. A great way of eliminating cyberbullying is to teach the students about being a CCoC.

There are many ways that the internet can cause harm or embarrassment to anyone, and a great way to avoid that harm and embarrassment is by being a CCoC. CART students are no exception, and can be ruined by the internet if they aren’t careful, which is why the CART administration needs to teach them about being a conscious creator of content. Please, help keep your kids safe.

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Thesis: CART admiration and teachers should implement a CART-wide curriculum that teaches students the importance of being a “conscious creator of content”

Works Cited

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