

Chapter 5:

Sextortion

EDUCATOR FACILITATION GUIDE

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

To provide practical tips and instructions for engaging students and handling difficult discussions on the topic of sextortion.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To understand the issue of sextortion and how it can happen.
- ▶ To highlight the ease at which technology can facilitate baiting someone using deep fakes.
- ▶ To give students practical steps for accessing help if they find themselves, or know a friend, in this situation.

CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Use inclusive language and terminology that acknowledges these issues can affect individuals of any gender, and ensure the tone remains non-judgmental.
- ▶ Emphasize respectful communication and confidentiality. It is important to listen and value each other's perspectives even if we don't agree with them.
- ▶ If your students have lots of questions or seem restless, take breaks in between the videos to debrief.
- ▶ Offer emotional outlets such as doodling or colouring sheets during the videos and discussion.
- ▶ Let your students know that if they feel triggered, they can go to the school office or speak with the school counsellor.
- ▶ Identify any local support resources and organizations on the issue ahead of time, so that you can readily refer students who may need additional support.

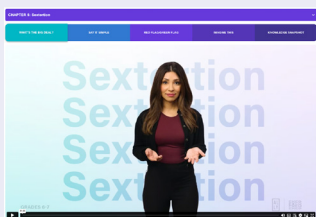
MODERATING DISCUSSIONS

- ▶ Ensure that all students have the opportunity to speak.
- ▶ Providing the class with an anonymous question box might help the students who may not feel comfortable asking important questions.
- ▶ If a question is inappropriate or derails the discussion, gently redirect it back to the main topic.
- ▶ If you don't know the answer, it's okay to admit it! Provide additional resources or take note to look into the question later.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

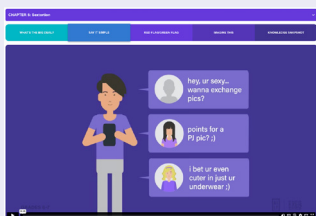
- ▶ Sextortion is digital blackmail where someone uses another person's sexual content (images, videos, screenshots of texts etc.) in order to threaten them for more sexual content or money.
- ▶ Instagram and Snapchat are commonly used platforms where sextortion occurs.
- ▶ Typically, males are targeted for money while females are targeted for sexual content.
- ▶ The majority of victims and targets of sextortion are males who are tricked through baiting- a tactic where someone uses AI to create a deepfake image or video. In these situations, the sextorter poses as a young, attractive female using these deepfakes to lure the male into sharing nude photos or exposing themselves on a livestream. The victim is then recorded or screenshotted.
- ▶ Other tactics used by sextorters include:
 - Offering a gift or money to a youth who sends sexual content.
 - Creating several accounts to make it seem like more than one person is targeting them.
 - Threatening to share the sexual image/video with a school or a news outlet.
- ▶ At its most extreme, the harm caused by sextortion can lead to suicide. When it does, it can occur within 24 hours of the threat.
- ▶ What should someone do if they are being blackmailed or if they have been engaging with the sextorter?
 - Stop communication period and do not give into any threats.
 - Gather all the information they can and take screenshots.
 - Do not delete anything, even the materials being used to threaten.
 - Block the account and immediately report it to a trusted adult, police, and Cybertip.ca.

FACILITATION TIPS FOR CHAPTER 5



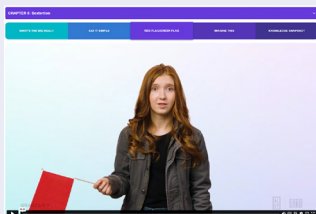
What's the Big Deal?

After watching the video, facilitate a discussion building on the conversation started in the video. Ask students the same question: What would they do if a friend told them they were being pressured or blackmailed online?



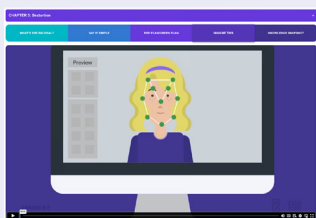
Say It Simple

Guide students in exploring the concept of sextortion and its potential risks. Encourage them to reflect on their understanding of online interactions and the deceptive tactics scammers use. Prompt questions such as: How can scammers manipulate online interactions to exploit others? Can you identify any warning signs in the scenarios presented in the video? Use these questions to initiate a discussion and promote critical thinking about the importance of online safety.



Red Flag/Green Flag

Use this video as an opportunity to discuss the importance of how to navigate online interactions and recognize the warning signs of unsafe people. You can pause the video after each question, to have discussion about what everyone thinks their answer would be, and discuss if you agree with what Camille, Kevin, Nate and Kara share.



Imagine This

Engage students in a reflective discussion about the potential risks of online interactions, specifically focusing on scenarios like the one shown in the video. Prompt them with questions like: How did Ben's trust in the online interaction impact his decisions? Can you identify any red flags in the conversation between Ben and the person online?



Knowledge Snapshot

Print out the page to keep in the classroom or at home as a summary of the key learnings from this chapter. Encourage students to use the reflection page as a tool for practice and applying what they've learned.

FAQ'S AND RESPONSES TO GET YOU THINKING

Q: How likely is it that someone follows through with the threat if you don't listen?

R: While a definitive answer can never be given, there are a number of factors as to why sextorters would not follow through with the threats if the victim chose not to obey them:

First, the reason behind the threats is because sextorters rely on fear to get what they want. If they can not use fear to control and get the results they want, they don't have any other method of force. Additionally, many sextorters target multiple victims at the same time and may not have the care to spend time pursuing someone who can not be controlled. Based on the experience of many law enforcement agencies, often times, sextorters will not follow through with their threats if they are blocked and reported.

Q: What happens if the sextorter is not in the country of the victim?

R: They can still be found and charged. Due to the international nature of the internet, many countries have agreements for dealing with crimes like sextortion. Canadian police will start an investigation and collaborate with the law enforcement group of the sextorter's country and location. Canada can extradite the sextorter for a court proceeding, and they could face charges in their home country and in Canada depending on the agreement between the two countries. We have had many recent cases where an international sextorter was found, charged, and trialed successfully for sextorting Canadians children and youth.

Q: Do sextorters always bait with deepfakes?

R: Sextorters use a variety of tactics to manipulate their victims. While baiting is common, they may also use a real female who is in their crime group to directly interact with the victim. Other tactics include pretending to be a love interest, offering money and gifts, or creating multiple fake profiles to build trust and manipulate their target. Lastly, they might also hack into social media accounts to obtain private content for blackmail.

Q: What if I've already sent a picture?

R: If you've sent a picture to someone and you are worried about them sharing it or using it against you, you can:

- ▶ Report it to the platform where it was shared.
- ▶ Visit needhelpnow.ca to send a template letter to the sender asking them to delete the photo with legal strength.
- ▶ Contact your local police and have them send a message to the receiver.
- ▶ Report the individual for possession of Child Pornography.
- ▶ Tell a trusted adult in your life.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Have students create posters aimed at educating their peers about sextortion, how it happens, and that it is not the fault of the victim. Post these around the school.
- ▶ Use an online platform like Kahoot to create an interactive quiz on sextortion facts, signs, and safety strategies.
- ▶ Invite a local police officer to speak to the class about sextortion and how to get help.
- ▶ Continue learning—build on the material from the previous chapters and introduce [Chapter 6: Predatory People and Grooming](#) to take a deeper dive into the world of exploitation.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS



To access the following resources, scan the QR code or [click here](#).

More Videos

- ▶ Sextortion: Online Coercion and Blackmail

Articles and Cases

**Please review beforehand and provide an age appropriate summary to students as well as a suicide trigger warning*

- ▶ Amanda Todd

Other Educational Resources

- ▶ Stop Sextortion - Yup. It's a thing.
- ▶ Resources Hub - NoFiltr

DISCLOSURES AND REPORTING

As a teacher, you may be one of the first trusted adults a student confides in about these topics. While some may be brief personal stories shared casually, others may require a more serious intervention.

- ▶ Be calm. Reacting with your own shock or disapproval creates further emotional distress.
- ▶ Listen attentively and without interrupting the student.
- ▶ Validate their feelings and acknowledge their courage in speaking up.
- ▶ Avoid making any promises about keeping things confidential or how their parent/ guardian may react. Provide them with comfort that you will continue to be a support and be sensitive to their worries.
- ▶ Ask them if anyone else knows about this already. If a trusted adult in their life already knows, you can simply engage in empathetic listening and ensure that you follow your school/organization's protocols. If a minor is currently at risk of harm or is being harmed, it is your duty to report it to your local child welfare services.
- ▶ Document the disclosure per your school/ organization's best practices.
- ▶ Provide continued support by checking in or providing them with other resources that are available to them.
- ▶ There may be times where a student does not feel comfortable coming forward or is not yet aware that they are experiencing a form of sexual exploitation. The following are signs to look out for as possible indicators:
 - Skipping class or school;
 - A change in grades or participation in classroom or school activities;
 - Appearing more tired than usual;
 - Device addiction;
 - Dressing more provocatively or having items they may not be able to afford;
 - Not hanging around their usual group of friends;
 - Isolating themselves;
 - Having profiles on apps that are not age appropriate;
 - Being involved in intimate image sharing; or
 - Having newfound mental health struggles.
- ▶ If you notice any of these behaviours from a student, make sure to take note and voice your concerns to a school counsellor or administrator.

KIDS HELP PHONE (24/7)

- ▶ Call 1-800-668-6868
- ▶ Text "CONNECT" to 686868

NEEDHELPNOW.CA

- ▶ Help with removing sexual pictures/videos

CYBERTIP.CA

- ▶ Report about shared intimate images