## What is Netiquette?

"Netiquette" stands for "Internet Etiquette", and refers to the set of practices created over the years to make the Internet experience pleasant for everyone. Like other forms of etiquette, netiquette is primarily concerned with matters of courtesy in communications.

## The Rules of Netiquette

1.      The Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated. This rule is an oldie but a goodie and can get you through just about any situation, online or off!

2.      No disrespect. Maybe you didn't agree with something someone said, but there's a nice way to share a different point of view without name calling or attacking someone. Harassing or insulting someone will not likely help you gain many online friends. Be nice.

3.      Respect others' copyrights: There are wonderful things online, information for everyone on just about any topic. However, these things have copyrights and licenses. Copying the works of someone else without permission or saying it is your own will not only ruin your online reputation, but could land you with hefty fines and lawsuits!

4.      DON'T TYPE IN ALL CAPS: It hurts our eyes. It makes people think you are shouting at them. It's okay to type in caps to accentuate a word or two, but please don't do it all the time everywhere you go.

5.      Don't Spam: As a blog owner, I get hundreds of spam messages each day. Most of them aren't even legible, with things like "kjhgsawu" typed in the comments and links to sites with adult or inappropriate content. I don't appreciate it! There's a fine line between spam and self-promotion, do it very carefully!

6.      Be Honest: Faking your work will not only hurt your reputation but can land you in a lot of hot water. You know the line honesty is the best policy, it's also one of the 10 best rules for netiquette.

7.      Use Proper Grammar & Spelling: If u rite liek this lol ppl might start 2 get mad lol. :) We understand spelling isn't always easy and typos and basic spelling mistakes will happen. But if it's distracting from your message, it can be annoying. Using a browser such as Firefox 3 with built in spell check can be a life saver for bad spellers.

8.      Research Your Facts/Cite Sources: I can't tell you how many times I read something (often politically related) that is not even close to the truth. There is so much information out there online, it can be very difficult to distinguish what is true and not true. Cite your sources!

9.      Sometimes sarcasm doesn't translate. Be careful when trying to use it. There is no voice inflection in written text, so people might not know you're joking, even if you have the best intentions.