Cyber bullying is willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of electronic devices, according to Dr. Hinduja from the Cyber Bullying Research Center. Electronic devices that are used for cyber bullying include the Internet on computers and laptop, mobile phones, gaming systems and many others. Tools that are mostly utilized by cyber bullies are instant messaging, mobile phones, chat rooms, email messages, social networking sites and blogs. Cyber bullying is becoming is becoming a growing problem in our society, especially with school-aged students. Cyber bullying involves the use of Information and communications technology (ICT) to intimidate, harass, victimize or bully an individual or a group of individuals (Bhat 2008). The bullying may include sending or posting harmful material or using digital technology to inflict social cruelty upon victims. Cyber bullying may include distribution of embarrassing information, whether true or false, about individuals, their families and/or friends; confidences intended for the sender alone; photographs taken with or without consent of the subject; video clips taken without consent or made by the victim for a select audience; and social exclusion can also be practiced on victims by cyber bullies influencing groups to "block" someone from their list of friends or contacts (Bhat 2008).

Cyber bullying has a huge impact on society, with mostly negative consequences but some positive consequences. Computers and technology have taken bullying to a whole new level, which in some cases could feel worse than face-to-face bullying. With cyber bullying, it makes it very easy for the bully to stay anonymous so many of the victims are completely unaware of the identity of the cyber bully or bullies. This can be more traumatizing to victims because they have

no idea who is harassing them and not being sure if its possible to trace down your anonymous bullies. Another negative effect that technology gives to Cyber bullying is that it allows participation by an infinite audience. This will make the victim believe that everyone is aware of his or her humiliation as well. When something is posted on the computer and Internet, it is usually accessible to anyone (Bhat 2008). Along with these negative consequences computers have with cyber bullying, cyber bullying also can lead to psychological issues. Due to all our advances in technology, such as blogs, instant messages and emails, people are able to bully right from the comfort of their own bedrooms. Due to this accessibility, this Internet content is often disseminated to a wide audience, which strengthens its impact (Auerbach 2009). Some of these effects on victims include depression, anxiety, school phobia, social anxiety, not wanting to leave the house and thoughts or attempted suicide (Weinstein 2006). Although the whole topic of bullying and cyber bullying is a very terrible and negative thing, there can kind of be positive consequences. The main positive that can come from cyber bullying is people becoming aware of this problem and raising awareness to help prevent bullying from continuing. As an example, just a few weeks ago, a Rutger's student jumped to his death in result of cyber bullying. In wake of this tragedy along with other teen suicides, Facebook recently announced of a partnership between several organizations to curb hate speech on its site (Horn 2010).

Cyber bullying is a major problem within our country. Especially recently, there have been many cases of bullying leading to suicide. Back in 2007, because of all the bullying, the governor of Oregon was prompted to declare a "cyber-bullying

emergency." As of 2008, nine states passed strong cyber bullying laws in order to protect children from being harassed, threatened and humiliated online. The states with laws are Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, New Jersey, Oregon, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont (Cyber Bully Alert 2008). By these states passing laws like this, it is a representation of a crucial step towards National anti-cyber bullying laws that will help protect children of all ages all over country. However, it does become a little complicated having laws protecting cyber bullying with regards to the extent to which regulation of this abusive Internet consent is appropriate, or even possible, given the free speech protections afforded by the First Amendment (Auerbach 2009).

The activity of cyber bullying has scary statistics. A recent study done by the National Crime Prevention Council found that 43 percent of kids were on the receiving end of cyber bullying last year. Cyber bullying is more common among females with 52 percent stating that they have experienced some form of this harassment, while only 37 percent of men said the same. The survey also reported that cyber bullying is occurring most among high school students. According to the study, 46 percent of high school teens have experienced cyber bullying, while only 35 percent of middle school students have experienced a form of cyber bullying (Horn 2010). Another study that was done in 2008 by researchers at the University of California-Los Angeles revealed that nearly 75 percent of teenagers between ages twelve and seventeen have personally experienced cyber bullying (Auerbach 2009). These statistics are scary evidence of what is going on to the youth of American and extremes measures must be taken to put an end to this.

Cyber bullying, or bullying via information and communications technology tools such as the Internet and mobile phones, is a problem of growing concern. Our world has become based around electronics and technology, which resulted in most people using technology as their main means for communication. With the easy access and ability to be anonymous, people take extreme advantage by harassing and humiliating others through the Internet. In result of the negative consequences and alarming statistics, many people are working together and laws are being created to try and prevent cyber bullying as much as they can.

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