



Dissecting the Complexities of Social Media: From Cyberbullying to Sexting

Course Description: Students are using social media in an alarming percentage of their daily activities. Studies show that 75% of youth use some kind of media every day, and over half of children under 10 years old possess smart phones or a tablet. Social media isn't going anywhere soon, so educators are struggling to keep up with the emerging technologies. Additionally, the evolution of technology has taken issues that were once overt and visible in the classroom to the abstract world of online. Teachers must learn to navigate the various scenarios that come with this rise in media and learn to solve problems and apply law when necessary.

This course will introduce educators to the evolving platforms of social media and familiarize them with their use. After studying trends and various media outlets, participants will learn to apply this technology to their classroom and engage students on its use. Additionally, this course will examine the controversial issues associated with social media, including the topics of laws regarding social media, sexting and online harassment.

At the end of this course, participants will reflect on new learning in this course and develop an implementation plan to utilize in their work.

Clock Hours / Continuing Education Units: 10

Learning Objectives:

- Demonstrate deeper knowledge and understanding of the evolving forms of social media and trends in its use
- Evaluate state and local laws on technology use and apply them to real-world scenarios
- Evaluate strategies for teaching cyberbullying prevention, digital literacy, and social media etiquette to students and schools.
- Develop new lessons that can be used in the classroom and professional development setting

Course Requirements: To receive full credit for the course, participants must complete ALL assignments. Failure to complete all assignments will result in a non-passing grade

Getting Started:

- After registering for the course, you will be sent an email with the website address, password and course key you need to access your online course, along with login instructions.
- Access each assignment through the course home page. All assignments will be submitted through the Moodle platform on each respective assignment page.
- Please save a backup copy of all course assignments and completed work.

Course Outline:

| Lesson Number | Lesson Description | Clock Hours |
|---------------|--|-------------|
| 1 | Introductions and Overview: Take the time to get to know the class layout, read over the Help section, and review any other materials present in the class to get started. Take your time! | 0.2 Hours |
| 2 | What Is Social Media? – Participants will examine several resources reflecting on what social media is, its impacts on interpersonal interactions, and how it is utilized in today's society. | 0.85 Hours |
| 3 | Free Speech & the Internet – Participants will read an article on free speech in schools and reflect themes of free speech surrounding schools, students, educators and social media. | 0.85 Hours |

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| 4 | Ethics and Social Media – Participants will read articles on ethics regarding use of social networking and media then reflect on how one can balance harms and benefits of a social media-centric world. | 0.85 Hours |
| 5 | Cyberbullying – Participants will dissect a school’s legal responsibilities to prevent cyberbullying and read articles surrounding the issue of enforcing antibullying policies in a cyber-world. They will then reflect on how they would respond to a case of cyberbullying as an educator, or if the law allows for response. | 0.85 Hours |
| 6 | Sexing – Participants will read on the challenges that schools are navigating with the rise in sexting among students. They will reflect on what the concerns are when it comes to sexting and how schools should respond. | 0.85 Hours |
| 7 | How do we foster an environment of good digital citizenship? – Participants will read an article on the concept of digital citizenship. They will reflect on how educators should teach their students about digital citizenship and how teachers can keep up with the age of social media. | 0.85 Hours |
| 8 | NLRB Ruling & Social Media – Participants will read rulings on cases surrounding educators posting on their personal social media accounts and where the ability to discipline begins and ends. They will then reflect on the rulings and what they mean for educators using social media. | 0.85 Hours |
| 9 | How can digital media support 21st century learning? – Participants will read an article on the challenges of implementing social media in the classroom while keeping lesson plans relevant. Participants will review resources on how to open the conversation with students about safety and social media “smarts.” | 0.85 Hours |
| 10 | Course Reflection: In this lesson, participants will write a summary of their reflections throughout the course, including new learnings | 1.00 Hours |
| 11 | Implementation Plan: For this final portion of the course, participants will develop a lesson that can be utilized in the classroom, homeroom period, or professional development training that encompasses the new learnings within this course. | 2.00 Hours |
| | TOTAL HOURS | 10 Hours |

Student Requirements and Assessment: No outside materials will be required for the completion of this course.

Participants will be assessed in three different ways:

- Quizzes:** Participants are required to complete a series of electronic quizzes to assess their understanding. Participants can earn up to 64 points total for the course. Each quiz may be taken up to three times, with the highest score recorded in the final grade. All quizzes must be completed in order to earn credit.
- Course Reflection:** Participants will be required to write a reflection summarizing their new learnings within the course. Participants can earn up to 10 points total for the reflection. The reflection will be graded using the following rubric:

| Grading Rubric for Discussion Forums | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------|
| | | Points |
| Critical Thinking | Makes connections to the other content and real-life that are supported by reference(s) and/or example(s) | 2 |
| | Offers new ideas, connections, or applications | 1 |
| | Expresses and justifies personal opinion | 1 |
| Assignment Specific Criteria | Addresses all parts of the reflection | 6 |
| Total Points Possible | | 10 |

- 3. Implementation Plan:** Participants will construct an implementation plan for how their new knowledge can be directly implemented into the classroom, training setting, or professional development environment. Implementation plans will be graded using the following rubric:

| Grading Rubric for Implementation Plan | | |
|--|---|-----------|
| | | Points |
| Background Information | Lesson / Title Identified | 1 |
| | Target Audience and Subject/Course Setting Identified | 1 |
| | Learning Goals are measurable objectives students are expected to meet by the end of the lesson. | 2 |
| | Lesson Ties to Specific State Standards for Students, Educators, or Professionals | 2 |
| | Materials Listed | 1 |
| Lesson Plan | <i>Engage:</i> Lesson hooks audience and introduces lesson effectively. | 5 |
| | <i>Explore and Explain:</i> Lesson actively engages participants in learning new material using best practices. | 5 |
| | <i>Evaluate:</i> Lesson effectively assesses participant understanding. | 5 |
| Implementation | Writing is clear, well developed, and organized. No or few grammar and spelling errors | 2 |
| | Is realistic in their approach – understands limitations may exist | 2 |
| Total Points Possible | | 26 |

Grading Scale:

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|-------------------------|---------|
| 100-80% (80-100 Points) | Pass |
| 79%-Below (<80 points) | No Pass |

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you are a student with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations for this class, please email academy@iowasafeschools.org or call 515.381.0588.

Professional Development: Prior to purchasing a course registration, it is your responsibility to ensure that National Safe Schools Convening Online Academy coursework satisfies the license renewal requirements for your state and/or district.