

Building Community Online

* DID YOU KNOW ...

"MOOC" stands for "massive open online course." A MOOC is a class that can be accessed online by an unlimited number of interested students. A "BOOC" is a "big open online course," which has a set number of maximum students (often around 50).

Match the words to their definition

online ethics	a set of principles and morals governing people's behavior as it relates to the Internet and digital devices
self-disclosure	sending or receiving sexually explicit photos or videos by text message or other digital technologies
sexting	a commonly used term for someone who uses the Internet to develop inappropriate relationships with kids or teens
online predator	sharing private, sensitive, or confidential information about oneself with others

* WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What are some of the similarities and differences between building a community online and offline?

1. Family Activity

Gemma's aunt requested to be her friend on Facebook. Gemma didn't really have anything to hide, so she decided to accept the friend request. A few days later Gemma got a notification that her aunt had posted on her wall. When she read the post, she immediately realized that her aunt did not understand the difference between posting on someone's wall and sending a private message. She cringed as she read the message: "Hi Gemma! Your mom told me that you and your friend are in a fight because you both like the same boy. This has happened to me before too and I know the feeling. Hang in there ... I love you!"

* DO YOU REMEMBER ...

How websites can foster community online?

2. Think Out Loud!

- ~ What is your immediate reaction to this situation? What seems realistic or unrealistic?
- ~ What would you do if you were Gemma?
- ~ What are the benefits of kids being friends with adults on social media? What are some of the drawbacks?
- ~ How do you decide if you're going to accept a follow or friend request from an adult in your life?

3. Common Sense Says ...

You are a member of the broader Internet community; don't only use your apps to meet your own needs! Like a good citizen of any place, your community will thrive if you help by filling it with meaningful dialogue and positivity. "Liking" and "commenting" can go a long way in creating a positive community online. So remember that you can give kudos and support through positive feedback. This feedback can really mean a lot to the poster and can help create a positive community for everyone who sees it.