

Ethical Use of Social Technology: Instructional Strategies

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Examples

Examples and non-examples are important because they help students learn defined concepts. Individual instances are used to help students distinguish characteristics and classify elements of a concept.

Zach set up a YouTube account using his teacher's name and personal information. He sent a text message to his teacher threatening to post a video showing the teacher smoking pot unless his grade is changed to an A. This is an example of fraud.

Scenarios

Scenarios are descriptions of situations that provide a context for discussion or debate. They help young people visualize a series of action and can be used to test out ideas and strategies. Unfortunately, they can also be overly simplistic leading to inappropriate generalizations.

Susan notices that Ben left his computer without logging off. She opens his email and sends embarrassing messages to his friends. She thinks it's okay because "he didn't log off and it's a free country." Do you agree or disagree with her reasoning?

Case Studies

Case Studies are in-depth examinations of specific situations. While they are useful in exploring complex situations, they can be time-consuming to prepare and may not meet the spectrum of needs.

Rebecca is twelve and a seventh grader at Richmond Middle School... She has a computer with Internet access in her room and knows her parents keep track of her use... She isn't allowed to have a cell phone at school, but she hides it in her pocket... She lied about her age to get a Facebook account... In which situations is Rebecca acting responsibly and irresponsibly?

Dilemmas

Dilemmas are situations where multiple options are provided, but none are acceptable. For instance, a dilemma may address two moral principles that require different courses of action. When students are asked to determine and justify a course of action, they learn to act on principles of justice and fairness rather than on self-interests or social norms. Students need to be aware that there may be many conflicting opinions. This approach can be overwhelming for some students, however it is effective at addressing the core issues.

In my social issues class, our team has been documenting the increase in homelessness in our community through photographs. While going through the digital photos team members took of homeless people, I realized many photos included a student from our school. I'm supposed to upload our photos to Flickr before class today. What should I do?

