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**Leading in a Digital Age**

**Module 5 Discussion: How Vital Is My Digital Reputation to My Career As an Educator?**

Jul 29, 2020 at 10:34pm

***How Vital Is My Digital Reputation to My Career As an Educator?***

**Write about a personal misstep you have experienced with online reputation and how you avoided or resolved the problem.**

Fortunately, I have not made a misstep that was so egregious that it went viral in news circles. However, one area where I have made accidental missteps has to do with using my district device to accomplish a personal task. Even as I do these assignments, I use two devices, my personal laptop and my district-issued laptop, so I can have two screens on display when doing my assignments. Even then, I have little concern as I like to think that I know what I'm doing.   The thing I need to continue to be mindful of is the times of the day in which I'm doing something that is not work related. For example, if I take a sick day from work, I better not post a picture on Facebook or Instagram saying that this plane ride to Cancun is turbulent! Or spending my planning time, or worse yet, instructional ordering cat sweaters on Amazon...!

**How can we be diligent about protecting our online reputation?**

In my opinion, each of us, as individuals need to decide how public or private our online, virtual world is going to be. While we may be guided by policies at work and in law, ultimately those decisions are ours. However, at the same time, we have to always be steadfast in knowing, like in the rest of life, there are consequences that emanate from the choices we make. Many of us try to teach and model that with our students as we help them with their character development. We need to be always conscious of our character development as we foray into the virtual world.

**What are ethical considerations you consider to be critical associated with digital tools?**

As educators we must all be aware of our digital footprint. We must be the model of how to use devices properly around students, whether it be a computer or a phone.  At the same time, be prepared to respond or react if a misstep is made.  Our world becomes more and more digital by the day. Just as we know that we and our students are human and make mistakes, we need to be realistic and know that can happen in virtual world, just as in the "real" world.

**Develop the hallmarks of a positive digital reputation.**

I used my past experiences, and some concepts I learned from past assignments in this class, a few "a-ha" moments I've received from some of your excellent comments, and some concepts  from a link of "netiquette" tips provided in our syllabus to come up with this fruity word salad, which will be posted on a page in my classroom website, that I'm calling...

**Big T's Top 10 "I Wills" for Good Digital Behavior** *(continued on next page)*

**Big T's Top 10 "I Wills" for Good Digital Behavior**

1.  I WILL teach your children how to use devices properly.

2.  I WILL teach your children how to use the internet safely. Your children  will learn that they leaves a "digital footprint" that shows what they've said, what they've done, and where they've been.

3.  I WILL teach your children how to treat each other with respect online "Treating others the way you want to be treated" applies to online conversations, too.

4.  I WILL teach your children how to make the right choices during video chats, whether it's between two people, twenty people, or 200 people.

5.  I WILL be very protective of your children online.

6.  I will never use the full name of your children, nor will they be featured in an image, or have any work voluntarily displayed without your permission. If your child has a conversation with someone, such as on Teams during school hours, it will be with someone who I know.

6.  I WILL let parents and guardians know if their children are struggling to make good digital choices.

7.  I WILL not expect your children to spend the majority of their school time on a computer or tech device. (Unless they are very engaged in extending their learning on a topic online and you give consent.) Children need to be able to enjoy, appreciate, and learn from life away from the screen of a computer, phone, or a tablet.

8.  I WILL not demand that your children do anything online that I wouldn't want to do myself.

9.  I WILL not let digital devices replace me as a teacher or your children as thinkers and learners. Computers, tablets, and phones are tools to help us communicate, complete tasks, learn, and explore. After all, we are people, not robots!

10.  I WILL make myself available to you  if you have any questions or concerns.  I will reply to you as soon as I am able. If I can't reach or reply to you online, I will try on the phone, with a text message from Infinite Campus, or with a handwritten note.

**References**

International Society for Technology and Education. (2016). [*ISTE Standards for Students,* **https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students** (Links to an external site.)](https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students)

Iowa Department of Education. (2010, June). *Technology Literacy*[**https://iowacore.gov/iowa-core/grade/2/21st-century-skills/technology-literacy** (Links to an external site.)](https://iowacore.gov/iowa-core/grade/2/21st-century-skills/technology-literacy)

Shea, V. (n.d.) The Core Rules of Netiquette. Retrieved from [http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html (Links to an external site.)](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

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