**Social-Ethical Issues**

Whenever working with students on the Internet, you need to consider two important social-ethical issues: security and student interactions.

**Security**

Students need to understand they are not to give out personal information such as their last names, cell or home phone numbers, addresses, or other information. On occasion there have been incidents where students have been contacted or even harmed by unscrupulous individuals. Your role as teacher is to encourage students to give their school’s address for correspondence if they need to provide such information. Also, as an educator, you must have parental permission to let children post their photos and written work, such as essays, poems, and artistic creations, on the Web. You can learn more about online security issues through the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security (CERIAS) (www.cerias.purdue.edu).

**Student Interactions**

When students are working in cybersettings, they need to engage in positive and appropriate interactions with others. As their teacher, you will need to guide your students in using appropriate behavior with others. It is important for you to help your students understand how to use clear and situation-specific language in their communications. For example, if the students are exchanging text messages, they will find abbreviations or word shortcuts to be effective, while in an email to an adult or an organization, they will want to use complete sentences.

One issue that has become serious and will need the teacher’s monitoring and intervention is that of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying can be annoying or even dangerous if not handled properly. The Cyberbullying Research Center (www.cyberbullying.us) offers information and research about the problem and suggestions for dealing with the issue at hand. Also, they provide examples of actual incidents and contact information for seeking assistance. The blog provides a means for professionals to discuss the examples provided and other cyberbullying issues.

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**Using Web 2.0 Tools in the Classroom**

**Advantages**

- Portable: Information can be accessed and used anywhere on personal devices such as iPods and cell phones.
- Easy to produce: The new types of technologies simplify the process of preparing materials such as podcasts or online videos.
- Authentic audience: When developing literacy and communication skills, interactive tools such as blogs and wikis offer opportunities to reach readers beyond the classroom who can provide valuable feedback.
- Connectedness: Communication among students is facilitated, encouraging collaboration.
- Social awareness: Students become more sensitive to others through social networking sites where they have access to information about each other.