

Name: _____

Communication Technology and Bullying

While most young people use the Internet for friendly interactions, some are using these communication tools to antagonize, terrorize, and intimidate others.

This behavior is called *cyberbullying*.

Cyberbullying is when an individual or group uses computers, mobile phones, or other communication technology to intentionally inflict pain or discomfort on another person or group of people.

Cyberbullying can include:

- Sending harassing, offensive, or abusive online and phone messages or images
- Spreading rumors online or via phone and text messages
- Posting insulting images or messages on the Internet

Why do people bully?

Some reasons include:

- To get what they want
- To be popular and admired
- They are afraid of being the one left out
- They are jealous of others
- It seems like fun or because of boredom
- It has worked for them before
- They enjoy the power
- They see it as their role
- People around them bully others

Source: Adapted from Friendly Schools and Families, 2004.

Do you think people use cyberbullying for the same reasons?

Most young people use the Internet and cyber technology appropriately. It is usually only a few people who do most of the damage.

Cyberspace Social Interaction

You can't see me . . .

When people use the Internet, they do not get much feedback from the person at the other end because they're not face-to-face.

Young people who cyberbully are more likely to do or say things online that they normally wouldn't do face-to-face.