

The Basic Rules of Netiquette

#1

In real life if someone says 'Hi', you say 'Hello' back. If a stranger asks for directions, you try helping them the best you can. The manners your parents taught you also apply online.

#2

When communicating with others, always pay attention to proper punctuation, spelling and grammar. As tone of your voice and body language are lost in written messages, try putting your thoughts together in a text in a clear and understandable way. It helps to convey the correct meaning online. Also, remember that TYPING IN ALL CAPS IS INAPPROPRIATE. Most netizens consider it shouting and rude.

#3

Be careful before you post any content online. Remember, your words are permanent. Once information reaches the internet, it can go viral and will be available through search. You can never know when and/or how it might affect your career or relationships with people. Therefore, think before you type and think before you post.

#4

Show respect and understanding. Online communication is different than talking to someone face-to-face. Consequently, it might lead people to behave rudely when they for instance do not agree with others. The fact that you completely disagree with certain opinions, does not mean their authors are wrong or idiots. Avoid calling them names or threatening them. Take into consideration that they have feelings and experiences, just like you.

#5

Promote healthy and honest discussions. Check facts before you post something or give advice. When you answer, be polite. It is crucial to write in a way you get the kind of reaction you want. Even if communicating online might feel informal, a certain level of formality is appreciated while talking with your teacher or supervisor. Ignore comments by trolls - save energy for more worthy interactions.

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