Teacher Notes: Digital Citizenship Pledge Grades 4-5

Materials and Preparation

• Copy the We the Digital Citizens Pledge Student Handout, one per group of two or three students.

• Print out one copy of the We the Digital Citizens Pledge as a poster for your classroom wall (which can be printed in black and white or in color, sizes 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17").

**(slide 1)**

**Introduce** the topic: Digital Citizenship Pledge

**(slide 2)**

**Ask and discuss**: How do you create a positive online community?

**(slide 3)**

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**warm-up**

Go over the lesson objectives

**(slide 4-5)**

**define and discuss** the key vocabulary

**(slide 5)**

**define** the key vocabulary

**(slide 6)**

What are some groups that you are a part of?

Sample responses:

•sports teams

•religious groups

•volunteer groups

What expectations do we have for being a

part of our classroom community?

Sample responses:

•treat each other kindly

•be respectful

•follow the rules

Why do we want our communities to have

these kinds of behavior expectations?

Encourage students to reflect upon how expectations let us all know how we are supposed to interact, work, and get along with one another.

**(slide 7)**

Participants in your class ought to agree on

what’s appropriate and what’s

expected to create a safe space (a shared set of norms and expectations) related to digital citizenship.In doing so, you will help build and maintain a culture of digital citizenship for your class’s online communities.

**(slide 8)**

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brainstorm a set of norms as a class.

**(slide 9)**

**Ask:** Are you a part of any online group or community?

Sample responses:

•gaming communities

•virtual worlds (e.g., Club Penguin)

•school groups (e.g., Schoology, a blog)

How are online communities different than

offline communities? How are they similar?

Sample responses:

•You may not know everyone personally in an

online community.

•People meet face to face offline, but people do not have

in-person contact online.

•People in both communities usually have similar interests

Sample responses:

•Welcome all members.

•Follow the rules or guidelines of the group/community.

•Encourage others to follow the community’s guidelines

as well or goals.

**(slide 10)**

**EXPLAIN** that as members of online communities, your class is going to outline the kinds of expectations you all have for being good digital citizens.

**DIVIDE** the class into small groups of two or three students.

**DISTRIBUTE** copies of We the Digital Citizens Pledge Student Handout, one per small group.

**REVIEW** the expectations outlined on the pledge as a whole group.

**INSTRUCT** students to brainstorm for five minutes in their small groups about additional expectations that they feel are important for an online community. Have them fill in the last two speech bubbles on the handout.

**(slide 11)**

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**INSTRUCT**

students to reassemble to share their ideas. As a whole group, decide on two additional expectations

to add to the poster version of your classroom’s We the Digital Citizens Pledge

**INSTRUCT** students to break into their small groups again to spend five minutes creating a motto that encapsulates the class’s community pledge. You may want to share examples of popular mottos/slogans, such as Nike’s “Just do it™,” Subway’s “Eat fresh™,” and Apple’s "Think different™.”

**GUIDE** students to reassemble and share their ideas. As a group, decide on a motto for your class community.

Add this motto on the poster of the classroom’s We the Digital Citizens Pledge.

**INVITE** each student to sign the We the Digital Citizens Pledge poster to indicate his/her commitment. (Younger

students can trace their hands and cut out the shape to adorn the edges of the pledge.)

**(slide 12)**

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**Wrap-up**

You can use these questions to assess your students’ understanding of the lesson objectives. You may want to ask students to reflect in writing on one of the questions, using a journal or an online blog

What is a pledge?

A pledge promises a commitment by the person agreeing to it. It helps build an agreed-upon sense of community.

What are you agreeing to in signing the We the Digital Citizens Pledge?

In signing the pledge, each student is agreeing to the stated terms and is committing to being an upstanding community

member, aka a digital citizen.

Which part of the digital citizenship pledge

is most meaningful to you?