



## **Activity: Publishing IT**

### **Theme**

Student empowerment, informed decision making and taking appropriate actions that help students to stay safe when using online and mobile technologies.

### **Key learning/subject areas**

Cross curricula.

### **Duration**

One to three periods.

### **Objectives**

On completion of this activity students will be able to:

- understand the conventions of developing an online newspaper
- understand safety issues affecting young people and their use of internet and mobile technologies.

The output will be:

- an online newspaper article following the conventions of an online news piece.



## Resources/links/materials required

### CyberNetrix CD-ROM

<b>Object in the room</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Magazines	Buzz on identity theft
Rubik's cube	Quiz 2—Don't diss me Quiz 3—Keeping it real online
Helmet	Staying cybersafe
Laptop	Chatting smart Chat smart information Chat room
Mobile phone	Mobile smart Who's bullying?

### Materials required at school

- Activity handout
- Computers (if available)
- Library resources
- Internet
- School intranet (if available).



## **Introduction**

Students will select and research a topic related to the safe use of the internet and other technologies. Using the resources on the CyberNetrix CD-ROM as well as the internet, they will write an online newspaper article discussing the issue. The article should include recommendations on how to stay safe in the cyber environment. The handout provided will give students guidelines about the structure and format of an online article.

## **Prior learning**

Students will need to have knowledge of:

- the look of online newspapers/articles and how they work—as opposed to traditional tabloid or broadsheet publications
- safety issues related to the use of the internet and mobile technologies.



## Activity description

### 1. Whole class activity

Discuss the differences and similarities in text structure of online and traditional broadsheet/tabloid newspapers. Bring in samples of both and explore how the language, designs and structures differ across the mediums.

Introduce the task to students. They are to develop an online newspaper article focusing on a topic related to safe use of the internet and other technologies.

Instruct the whole class to brainstorm a list of possible topics for the articles over 5–10 minutes, then explore the issues which most interest them in depth.

### 2. Individual activity

Each student will need to research the topic of their choice and review online newspapers such as:

- Victoria's *The Age*—[www.theage.com.au](http://www.theage.com.au)
- New South Wales' *The Sydney Morning Herald*—[www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au)
- Queensland's *The Courier Mail*—[www.thecouriermail.news.com.au](http://www.thecouriermail.news.com.au)
- Australian Capital Territory's *The Canberra Times*—<http://canberra.yourguide.com.au/home.asp>
- Northern Territory's *The Northern Territory News*—[www.ntnews.com.au](http://www.ntnews.com.au)
- Western Australia's *The Western Australian*—[www.thewest.com.au](http://www.thewest.com.au)
- South Australia's *The Advertiser*—[www.theadvertiser.news.com.au](http://www.theadvertiser.news.com.au)
- Tasmania's *The Mercury*—[www.themercury.news.com.au](http://www.themercury.news.com.au)
- *The Australian*—[www.theaustralian.news.com.au](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au)
- *The New York Times*—[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
- *The Times*—[www.timesonline.co.uk](http://www.timesonline.co.uk).

As they review online newspapers, students should take note of the structure and design of the sites and observe how messages are communicated to online readers.

In finding the information, students should refer to the library, the internet and the CyberNetrix CD-ROM.



### **3. Individual activity**

When students have sufficient information, they can draft their newspaper article. It may be helpful for them to follow these steps:

- Prepare a draft outline and include: possible newspaper title, possible article headline, key points and information you will cover in your article (remember to cite sources of information), recommendations or hints to the reader about staying safe, and any images you will use (if you have images which were not originally developed by you, it is important to cite the source).
- Prepare a first draft. Teachers can distribute the template handout to help students.
- Review the draft with another student and redraft where required.
- Develop a second draft and review it with the teacher.
- Develop the final piece and 'publish' it.



## **Teacher notes**

Allocating class time for students to research online newspapers will depend on their access to computers, the internet and any firewall software the school has in place.

The technologies students may use to develop their online newspaper article will be dependent on their design skills and access to computers. If students are not computer savvy, they can draw their design for the article on paper or use cut-outs from magazines and other newspapers.

If there is an active school intranet, and the students develop digital newspaper articles, it might be a good idea to include these on the school's intranet pages.

This activity can be applied across a range of issues or used for a whole class to focus on one issue in depth—such as cyberbullying. If the decision is made to focus on one area, encourage students to finish their online article with a summary of practical steps/hints/information. This empowers them to make informed decisions.



## Handout: Publishing IT

Online newspaper title: \_\_\_\_\_

Headline: \_\_\_\_\_

By (author name): \_\_\_\_\_

Date (month/day/year/time): \_\_\_\_\_

Page (e.g. 1 of 2): \_\_\_\_\_

Links: e.g. CyberNetrix CD-ROM/other URLs \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Text</b></p> <p>Intro—brief overview: who, what, when, where, how, why?</p> <p>Middle—the content of article describing the details</p> <p>Conclusion—a summary of the main themes of the article</p>	<p><b>Text</b></p>	<p><b>Images</b></p>
<p><b>Advertisements/animation</b></p>		
<p><b>Text</b></p>		
<p><b>Images/advertisements/animation?</b></p>		