

Important Rules of Netiquette

English 10

What is netiquette?

- The accepted behavior and rules for online communication
- The proper way to participate in a web-based setting

Online Communication Guidelines

1. **Show respect** – Think of the Golden Rule: *Treat others how you want to be treated.* Give your classmates the same respect you would like to receive.
2. **Agree to disagree** – Sometimes two opinions will differ so much that you cannot see the other person's side no matter how hard you try. That is ok. Just acknowledge that you each have a right to your own thoughts and opinions and move on. Different does not equal wrong, and the other person probably feels just as strongly as you do.
3. **It is OK to disagree** – IF you do it in the right way. You can make comments like, "While I can certainly see your thoughts on this issue, my opinion tends to lean toward the other side." Then, explain why you think the way you do. If you keep your information about your beliefs or thoughts instead of someone else's thoughts, you are less likely to offend someone.
4. **Be appropriate** – If you would not say it to your teacher's face, don't write it here. Cuss words or slang words are never acceptable. Never. Topics that are not school appropriate are equally unacceptable.
5. **Use good writing** – Grammar counts. Usage and mechanics count also. Use the spell check button, but make sure you proofread your entries before posting to make sure they are correct. Try reading the post aloud to help you catch errors.
6. **No yelling** – Avoid using ALL CAPS in your postings. That comes across like you are yelling at someone.
7. **Emoticons and texting language** – While an occasional smiley face to help someone understand your tone or that you are joking might be acceptable, remember that you are not writing in text code. Write you, not u. No LOLs or numbers instead of words.

Finally, remember that once you post something, you cannot go back and change it. So be sure your post reads how you want it to read before sharing it with the class.