DIGI - CIVIS

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

15+

SUBJECT: Civic Education, Digital Literacy, Citizenship

LESSON TOPIC: Understanding the rights and responsibilities of digital citizens

DURATION: 50 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVE/S:

Main objective of the lesson:

Students will understand their rights and responsibilities as digital citizens, ensuring to navigate the digital world responsibly and ethically.

Competences that students will acquire:

- Understanding digital rights such as privacy, freedom of speech, and access to information.
- Recognizing the responsibilities associated with online activities, including respectful communication, protecting personal data, and critical thinking.
- Identifying how to behave responsibly online and developing awareness of the impact of their online behavior on others and society.

MATERIALS/RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Introduction: Basics of Digital Citizenship in the EU (https://www.digi-civis.eu/e-learning)
- Cards for digital rights and responsibilities activity

METHODS/TECHNIQUES:

- Class discussion
- Group activity
- Case study analysis

LESSON PLAN OVERVIEW

PREPARATION:

- Thoroughly go over the Digi-Civis eLearning Course Introduction to discover the basics of digital citizenship in the EU.
- Choose an article or a video to explain the concepts of digital rights and responsibilities, such as <u>European Digital Rights and Principles</u> or <u>EU Digital Principles: Your Rights in the Digital Age</u>.
- Prepare cards with different scenarios (e.g., posting a comment on social media, using someone else's photo without permission, reading false information online) to explain rights and responsibilities in the digital space. See our example at the end of the Lesson Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Introduction (20 minutes)

- Ask students what they believe are their rights when they are online and what responsibilities they have. Write some of their answers on the whiteboard.
- Using the chosen article or video, introduce the topic of digital rights (e.g., privacy, freedom of speech) and responsibilities (e.g., behaving ethically, protecting your own and others' privacy).
- Ask students to check the answers they gave at the beginning of the lesson and if necessary modify them according to the knowledge they have learnt.

Group Activity & Class Discussion (30 minutes)

- Divide the class into groups and give each group a set of prepared cards with different scenarios.
- Ask the groups to categorize these as either a right or a responsibility. Each group discusses the ethical choices in each situation.
- Each group shares their results, explaining their reasoning and discussing how each scenario reflects digital rights or responsibilities.

DIGI - CIVIS

MORE INFORMATION TO LEARN MORE:

- European Commission, <u>European Digital Rights and Principles</u>
- European Commission, <u>EU Digital Principles: Your Rights in the Digital Age</u>
- European Commission, <u>European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles</u>
- European Commission, <u>Digital Rights and Principles</u>
- DigitalEU, <u>Digital Rights and Principles</u>
- UNDP Eurasia, <u>Digital rights are human rights too</u>
- A1Ai Technologies, <u>Your Digital Rights and Responsibilities| Being a Good Digital Citizen</u>

ANNEXES:

- Cards with different scenarios on digital rights and responsibilities (on the last page of the Lesson Plan).

HOMEWORK:

- Ask students to individually write down one example of a right they value online and one responsibility they think is important, explaining why these matter to them personally.
- Ask students to interview a family member or friend about their online experiences and how they understand digital rights and responsibilities. Students should write a short paragraph about what they learned from the interview.

ASSESSMENT:

- Evaluate students based on their participation in group discussions, their attentiveness, and their understanding of key concepts through the analysis of case study scenarios.

DIGI - CIVIS

CARDS FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACTIVITY

1 Posting a comment on social media

Scenario: You post a comment on social media criticizing a movie, but another user responds with offensive language.

Questions:
1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Consider freedom of speech, the right to express opinions, and the responsibility to communicate respectfully online. Should offensive comments be allowed, or should they be moderated?

Solution:

This scenario involves both a **right** and a **responsibility**. You have the right to express your opinions online (freedom of speech), but it comes with the responsibility to communicate respectfully. Offensive language violates the responsibility of maintaining a respectful online space. A good digital citizen should engage in discussions politely and report offensive comments when necessary.

2 Using someone else's photo without permission

Scenario: You find a cool photo online and use it for your profile picture without asking the original photographer.

Questions:
1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Explore the responsibility of respecting intellectual property and privacy. Is it ethical to use someone's content without credit or permission?

Solution:

This is a **responsibility**. You are responsible for respecting intellectual property and the rights of others. Using someone else's photo without permission is unethical and can violate copyright laws. A responsible digital citizen should ask for permission or give proper credit to the original creator before using any content that isn't their own.

DIGI - CIVIS

CARDS FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACTIVITY

3 Reading false information online

Scenario: You come across a news article online that contains misleading or false information, but it's being shared by many of your friends.

Questions:

1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Analyze the responsibility of critical thinking and fact-checking in the digital age. What should you do if you recognize false information? Should you share it or correct it?

Solution:

This scenario highlights the **responsibility** to verify information. While you have the right to read whatever content you come across, you are responsible for fact-checking and not spreading false information. A good digital citizen should think critically, avoid sharing misleading content, and, if possible, inform others about the falsehoods.

4 Sharing a friend's embarrassing video

Scenario: Your friend recorded an embarrassing video of themselves, and you think it's funny, so you share it without asking them.

Questions:

1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Talk about the responsibility to respect others' privacy and digital consent. What could be the consequences of sharing someone's private content without their permission?

Solution:

This is a **responsibility**. You are responsible for respecting your friend's privacy and getting consent before sharing any personal content. Sharing the video without permission could harm your friend and damage trust. A good digital citizen would ask for permission before sharing any video or photo involving others and consider the potential consequences of doing so.

DIGI - CIVIS

CARDS FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACTIVITY

5 Blocking someone who's being annoying

Scenario: A person you don't like keeps messaging you online, so you decide to block them.

Questions:
1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Discuss the right to control your online interactions, including the right to block or mute people. How does this protect your digital well-being?

Solution:

This is a **right**. You have the right to control your online interactions and protect yourself from harassment or unwanted communication. Blocking someone who is bothering you is a way to maintain your digital well-being and ensure a positive online experience. A good digital citizen uses this tool responsibly and ensures that it's done to protect themselves, not to avoid constructive criticism or differing opinions.

6 Signing up for a social media account

Scenario: You want to create a social media account but skip reading the terms and conditions before signing up.

Questions:
1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Discuss the responsibility of understanding the platforms you use. Why is it important to know the rules and terms before using a service?

Solution:

This is a **responsibility**. Before using any platform, you are responsible for reading and understanding the terms and conditions to know how your data will be used and what rules you are agreeing to. Skipping this step can lead to unintentional misuse or misunderstanding of the platform's policies. A good digital citizen ensures they are informed about the platforms they use.

DIGI - CIVIS

CARDS FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACTIVITY

7 Reporting inappropriate content

Scenario: You come across a post that contains harmful, offensive, or inappropriate content. You consider whether to report it or ignore it.

Questions:
1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Examine the responsibility to maintain a safe and respectful digital environment. What are the consequences of reporting or not reporting harmful content?

Solution:

This is a **responsibility**. You have the responsibility to report harmful or inappropriate content to help maintain a safe digital environment for others. While you have the right to ignore the post, it's ethically better to report it so that the platform can take action. A good digital citizen plays an active role in creating a positive online space by reporting harmful content.

8 Downloading movies illegally

Scenario: You find a website where you can download movies for free without paying or getting permission from the creators.

Questions:
1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Consider the ethical responsibility to respect intellectual property and copyright laws. What are the legal and moral implications of piracy?

Solution:

This is a **responsibility**. You are responsible for respecting copyright laws and the rights of content creators. Downloading movies illegally violates these rights and is an unethical action. A good digital citizen respects the work of others and uses legal channels to access content, even if it requires payment.

DIGI - CIVIS

CARDS FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACTIVITY

9 Joining an online petition

Scenario: You see an online petition for a cause you care about and consider whether or not to sign it.

Questions:
1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Discuss the right to participate in digital activism and the responsibility to ensure the cause is legitimate and aligns with your values.

Solution:

This is a **right**. You have the right to participate in digital activism and support causes that are important to you. However, it's your responsibility to ensure that the petition aligns with your values and is legitimate. A good digital citizen should research the cause and verify the authenticity of the petition before signing.

10 Creating an anonymous profile to leave negative reviews

Scenario: You create an anonymous profile to leave negative reviews of a product or service because you're upset with the company.

Questions:
1. Is this a right or a responsibility?
2. Explore the responsibility to give fair and honest feedback and how anonymity online can sometimes be misused.

Solution:

This is a **responsibility**. While you have the right to share your feedback about products or services, you are responsible for ensuring that your reviews are fair and honest. Creating an anonymous profile to post negative reviews can be misleading and potentially harmful if the feedback is not accurate or constructive. A good digital citizen provides feedback transparently and avoids the misuse of anonymity.