

NEW MEXICO 4-H

Aggie Next Step

Using Digital Content Ethically



Post Secondary Pathways



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Using Digital Content Ethically

INTRODUCTION

We use digital content every day – images, videos, writing, and even AI tools – but not everything online is free to copy or reuse. In this lesson, participants will learn how to make responsible choices when using digital content by exploring copyright, fair use, Creative Commons, plagiarism, and academic integrity. They will also examine what ethical AI use looks like in school and the workplace.

SET UP

Review lesson materials and determine which worksheets and handouts you will use for the lesson. Print enough pre/post assessments, worksheets, and handouts for each participant.

ACTIVITY

1. Have participants complete the *Pre-assessment*.
2. Quick Debates: Activate prior knowledge and teach participants to reason through ethical dilemmas. For each prompt, students choose a side, prep for 1 minute, then give a 30-second argument. Assign prompts (use 1 or all)
Q: Should using AI ever be allowed on writing assignments?
Q: Is it plagiarism to use AI if you edit the text afterward?
Q: Is fan art legal? Should it be?
Q: Should you be able to use any images from Google as long as it's for school?

In the discussion that follows, guide students toward understanding ideas about copyright, plagiarism, and academic integrity.

3. Discuss and Define “Ethical” and “Unethical.”

- Ethical: actions that align with moral principles, professional standards, and social norms (honesty, respect, fairness, protecting others’ privacy)
- Unethical: (the opposite) actions that are morally wrong or violate these principles, cause harm, or break trust

Discuss: *What does it mean to use digital content ethically?*

Supplies

- Worksheets
- Handouts
- Pens/Pencils

OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

- **Identify** what it means to use digital content ethically.
- **Explain** why copyright laws are important.
- **Apply** ethical decisions to realistic scenarios.
- **Evaluate** ethical decisions in using other people’s work.
- **Debate** examples of academic integrity with other participants.



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4. Distribute *Using Digital Content Ethically* handout. Read and discuss as a class.
5. (Materials can be printed and cut in advance for convenience, but students may also cut them during the activity. Alternatively, you can provide the uncut handout and have students mark "Ok," "Not sure," or "Not OK" on each box.) Divide students into pairs or small groups. Provide each group with a set of "*Can I Use This?*" *Copyright Quick Sort* cards. Ask groups to sort statements onto the stoplight. There is a mix of clear-cut and "Not Sure" statements to spark discussion. Encourage participants to debate, justify, and rethink choices.
6. Introduce the *Plagiarism or Not? Gallery Walk*. Place each paper on a desk or surface around the room. Students move around the room reading the examples and deciding whether the writing shows *original work, needs citation, accidental plagiarism, clear plagiarism, AI misuse*. There isn't always a right or wrong answer for some of the examples. The point is to spark conversations about plagiarism and academic integrity.
7. Guide participants through *Would You or Wouldn't You? Structured Conversation*. The instructor reads each scenario, and participants stand on one side of the room for YES, the other for NO, and in the middle for MAYBE. Guide students through discussion based on your school's AI policies.
7. *Exit Ticket* – depending on time, this can be done as a class discussion, or students can complete the worksheet in class, as homework, or the following class.

8. Have participants complete *Post-assessment*.



In this lesson, you learned how to recognize what's yours to use and what requires permission, credit, or caution. When you avoid plagiarism, follow copyright and fair use rules, and use AI ethically, you build trust and demonstrate integrity. Keep using digital content in ways that reflect responsibility and respect.





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RESOURCES

NM Standards:

NM PED Standards: Career and Technical Education (CTE):

CTE 2.1.3: Locate, organize and reference written information from various sources

CTE 2.2.1: Use writing and organizationl skills

CTE 8.1.1: Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of workplace situations to make ethical decisions

Common Career Technical Core (CCTC) Standards: Career Ready Practices (CRP):

CRP-1: Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee

CRP-4: Communicate clearly, effectively and with reason

CRP-5: Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions

CRP-9: Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management

Optional ELA Alignment (Grades 6-12)

SL1: Participate in a range of conversations and collaborations

Video Resources:

Note: Please preview all videos before showing them to students to ensure they are age-appropriate, relevant, and aligned with your classroom needs.

Plagiarism and You

<https://youtu.be/eYhGPHAnFak?si=UHIPXqF65GaEx9YW>

What is Copyright?

<https://youtu.be/ukFl-siTfTg?si=RNh90HOj1yyePrxy>

What is Public Domain?

https://youtu.be/PMp_-OX15Jc?si=EpI76i1WzDy8fkDi

What is Academic Integrity?

https://youtu.be/zS68IIEOjrw?si=8pBv_GPhx58Rvkui

Fair Use

https://youtu.be/IFhF_tHrj4s?si=YnA_Cv_GkNqWGamo

Copyright on the Internet

https://youtu.be/F_8hKfVgwzg?si=SLc6yoscSQcQuDmj