

# Headline Stories

**Use this activity to demonstrate how posting something inappropriate online can have negative consequences.**

Ask two children to come to the front of the room. Tell one of the following stories for each child:

- *(Child's name) was upset with school administrators for rescheduling a school event he helped plan. He/she vented on his blog about what idiots they were. When the principal saw the blog, he barred him/her from serving as class secretary.*
- *(Child's name) joined a group of teammates in setting up a fake social networking page in their coach's name. They posted mean comments about their coach and his family. When the site was discovered, the athletes were kicked off the team. (Volunteer's name) even lost his/her athletic scholarship to college.*



Now ask: *Do you think what happened to these two was fair? What if I told you that these are true stories that have actually happened to real people?* Remind the children that once you post something online, you lose control of it. Even if you meant for only a few people to see, anyone can copy it and post it elsewhere, so be careful what you post.

