Rights and limits of online participation

Netiquette

Topic 3

What is netiquette?

Principles of good behavior in the online space

It is a term created by joining the words' etiquette 'and' net'.

While social etiquette has developed over the centuries and adapted to time and culture, digital etiquette is still relatively new.

Adherence to netiquette rules can be very helpful in personal relationship

Even many educated public officials or other kind of exposed people often do not know how to communicate well on social networks.

Negative effects of bad online communication

Many times we witness aggressive and offensive communication, which causes just negative emotion from the conversation.

The problem with communicating through social media is the distortion and uncertainty of how the person really meant the written thing.

Personal contact and human facial expressions can reveal a lot and we miss this in online communication.

In addition, the digital footprint remains on servers and can catch up with us, for example - to prevent you from getting the job of your dreams.

How should we not behave on the Internet?

Inappropriate jokes - it is extremely inappropriate to make jokes that part of society may not understand, especially jokes that could offend someone.

Communication without proofreading - it often happens that we make a few typos that can completely change the context of the whole message, it can even be offensive to someone. Autocorrection can also be dangerous in this sense.

Spamming other people - It's not always easy to get attention when you want to reach an individual, a group of people, a company, or a community with a certain thing. This can lead to an attempt to send a series of similar messages.

How should we not behave on the Internet?

Catfishing - impersonating someone else, whether by misusing a person's photos or by falsifying your identity. This is a particularly serious behavior, especially dangerous for children who are at risk of being abused by cyber-groomer.

Arguing with people - this is a very widespread phenomenon, where debaters argue over various social media posts, in the worst cases they even wish death or other unpleasant things to others.It is important to realize that no one is perfect, to be wrong is human and, above all, everyone has a right to their opinion.

Not giving others space to express themselves - it is important to keep in mind that everyone has a right to their opinion and can also be wrong. Even if we do not agree with the views of others, we must give them space to express themselves.

How should we not behave on the Internet?

Using capital letters - it can happen that if we want to draw attention to some information or opinion, we can slip to write everything in capital letters. While it may be effective, it can arouse negative emotion in others as it reminds of shouting.

Sharing other people's private information - not respecting the privacy of others is a great violation of netiquette. Even if they share this information themselves, you should not share it without their consent and authentication.

Not including context - Especially if you are commenting on a message thread, it is a good idea to mention the previous information you are commenting on, as this can be confusing for others.

Ignoring people who ask for help - if it happens that someone contacts you directly with a request for help, you should help them, or at least try to refer them to another person / institution that can help them.

The basic rules of netiquette

Remember the Human- the online environment can give the feeling of anonymity, but it is not real. It is important to keep in mind that there is a human being behind every message and comment on a social network, and we can hurt him / her. This is the so-called Golden rule of netiquette.

Don't react immediately in anger and think carefully about the meaning and consequences of the message / comment it might have - when we don't see a person's facial expression, we often don't understand the true meaning of what he / she wrote . Therefore, do not act rashly and do not go into conflict without thinking more deeply about what is written and how it is meant. After all, it could also be a typo or autocorrection.

The basic rules of netiquette

Be yourself - treat others well, communicate on your behalf, and don't hide behind fake profiles from which you write hateful comments and messages.

Avoid misunderstandings- A written word can confuse and sometimes it is difficult to tell if you are serious, whether it is a joke, sarcasm or reality. Therefore, it is advisable to use emoticons that express your emotions in online communication.

Take care of the grammar - typos and poor grammar make a bad impression on the authors and may even cause you problems in your future work, for example. Be careful and check the posts / messages before you send it.

Consider your email address - Mail communication is considered a formal online communication, so you should not only choose a formal language, but also consider the address as such. Avoid using nicknames, slang, and consider creating two e-mail addresses for personal and business purposes.

The basic rules of netiquette

Try to respond as quickly as possible - When you receive an email or message on social networks, it is polite to respond as quickly as possible. If you do not have time for the email now, it is good to write to the recipient that you saw the email and you will deal with it a bit later.

Avoid conflicts - Don't get involved in quarrels and conflicts, it won't make, you may hurt others and cause you to be denied access to social media. Also, never share abusive content.

Respect diversity - each person is different, comes from a different social or cultural background, has a different level of knowledge and skills and can have a different opinion on the matter. You must respect that and give others space to express themselves politely.

Using netiquette in a work environment

Using netiquette greatly reduces the chances of misunderstanding or quarreling with others.

Not using netiquette can cause several unpleasant situations in the work environment, such as - creating tension and misunderstanding, undermining teamwork, spreading false information about a team member.

The work environment has a huge impact on our mental health - when we have unhealthy relationships at work and at school, it can negatively affect our mental state and relationships with family and friends.

A healthy balance between online and offline communication can also be a solution.

Be aware that online communication will stay even if you delete it- you may lose your job or the communication may be used as evidence against you in court.