

Friend or Fake?



Overview

Students will watch the video “Friend or Fake?” and discuss when it’s appropriate to raise a red flag in response to an online friend’s actions.



Materials / Preparation

- Computer lab or computer hooked up to an LCD projector
- Video - “Friend or Fake?”
- Red construction paper



30 minutes



Introduction

Tell students: *When something “raises a red flag,” it could be dangerous. In the video we are going to watch, the actions of Keyan’s online friend raise a red flag for Tad and Slick, making them think she is a fake rather than a friend. See if you can spot which actions raised a red flag.*



Activity

Give each student a piece of red paper. Tell students: *I am going to read through a list of actions. If you think that an action is suspicious and could indicate that the online friend is a fake, raise your red flag.* Call on the students who raise red flags and ask them to explain why they raised them.

At the end of the activity, remind students that they should tell their parents or another trusted adult immediately if an online friend’s actions raise a red flag.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You forgot to IM with your online friend today. The next time you get online, he makes you feel guilty.
 <i>Your friend could be trying to control you by manipulating your feelings.</i> • Your online friend asks for your home address.
 <i>This is personal information!</i> • Your online friend asks you what your favorite movie is. No flag. • Your online friend offers to send you a cell phone.
 <i>Accepting gifts from people can make it hard to tell them no.</i> • Your online friend asks for a picture of you.
 <i>This is personal information!</i> • Your online friend tells you something that makes you uncomfortable and asks you to keep it a secret.
 <i>No one should ask you to keep a secret that makes you uncomfortable.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your online friend sends you the music video of a popular song. No flag. • Your online friend asks for your cell phone number.
 <i>This is personal information!</i> • Your online friend offers to send you a bus ticket so that you can visit them.
 <i>No one should try to meet you without your parent or guardian’s permission.</i> • Your online friend asks if you want to play her in an online game. No flag. • Your online friend does not want your trusted adults to know about him or her.
 <i>No one should ask you to keep secrets from your trusted adults.</i> • You play basketball and so does your online friend. He asks to come watch one of your games.
 <i>This could be a sneaky way of trying to meet face-to-face.</i> |
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Follow-Up

Have students write a definition of “red flag” on one side of their flag. (*Example - A red flag is a warning to watch out for dangerous behavior.*) On the other side of the flag, have students write down some examples of red flags to watch out for when dealing with online friends.