**Digital Literacy Grade 10, Lesson 3,** **“Turn Down the Dial on Cyberbullying”**

**Lesson Objectives**:

•Reflect on the factors that intensify online cruelty and cyberbullying.

•Identify what targets and Upstanders can do when online cruelty occurs.

•Recognize their own role in escalating or de-escalating online cruelty.

**Essential Question:**

*What factors intensify cyberbullying and online cruelty, and what can you do to lessen them?*

**Key Vocabulary:**

**•target:** a person who is the object of an intentional action

**•offender:** a person who has malicious intent to hurt or damage someone

**•bystander:** a person who does nothing when they witness something happening

**•Upstander:** a person who supports and stands up for someone else

**•escalate:** to increase or make more intense

**•de-escalate:** to decrease or make less intense

**Warm Up:**

**Remind students that online cruelty, also referred to as cyberbullying, takes place when someone uses digital media tools such as the Internet and cell phones to deliberately upset or harass someone else.**

**Show the Video:** “Ricardo’s Story – Making Fun of Others Online” (Double click on icon to load on Windows Media Player)



**Discussion**:

1. Do you think Ricardo is a cyberbully?

2. What does Ricardo mean when he says that information “gets around really quick”? Discuss further the impact of the means of the Internet & information spreading.

3. Ricardo thinks that harassing others on the Internet, rather than in person, appeals to some teenagers because they can’t be attacked back physically. What do you think?

4. How does one feel when being the target of online cruelty?

**Discuss the following ways that targets and Upstanders can help de-escalate online cruelty**:

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| **Targets** | **Upstanders** |
| Ignore and block the bully. Take away the attention they are seeking & they may give up. | Stand up to the offender when appropriate. Make it clear that you feel online cruelty is wrong. |
| Save the evidence – You may need it later for documentation. | Point out the bully’s motivation to the target. Comfort the target by explaining that many offenders act cruelly just to gain control, power, or status. |
| Change your privacy settings – Only allow people you trust to see your pages. | Be an advocate. Help the target find friends or school leaders who can help de-escalate the situation. |
| Tell a trusted friend and/or adult. | Be a good role model. Don’t be a bully. |