**Digital Literacy - Grade 9, Lesson 3,** **“Cyberbullying: Crossing the Line”** (Adapted from Common Sense Media)

**Lesson Objectives**:

•Analyze online bullying behaviors that “cross the line.”

•Learn about the various ways that student can be cyberbullied, including flaming, deceiving, and harassing.

•Adopt the point of view of teens who have been cyberbullied, and offer solutions.

**Essential Question:**

*When does inappropriate online behavior cross the line to cyberbullying, and what can you do about it?*

**Key Vocabulary**:

•**harassing** – bombarding someone with messages over digital media, or repeated contact when it is least expected.

•**deceiving** – using fake names, posing as someone else, or creating a fake profile about someone else.

•**flaming** – saying mean things, usually in ALL CAPS, and often in a public forum with the intention to humiliate.

•**hate speech** – a verbal attack targeting someone because of their race, gender, religion, ability, or sexual orientation.

**Warm-up**:

Ask:

~ What are some of the ways that you and your friends tease each other online for fun?

~ When does teasing “cross the line” and become harmful? What are some signs, and what does it feel like to be in that situation?

~Go over the vocabulary and point out that these are just a few examples of situations that are considered to “cross the line”.

**Procedure**:

Show the video: “Stacey’ Story – When Rumors Escalate.”



**Discussion:**

1. Why did the girls start to harass and threaten Stacey online in the first place?

2. When do you think the girls’ behavior “crossed the line”?

3. Stacey says, “People talk really big, when there’s, like, miles between you.” What do you think she means by this statement?

4. In what ways might the online context make the situation worse than if the bully had harassed Stacey offline?

5. Stacey’s mom says that Stacey should call the school and report the incidents. Stacey responds that it would “just make it worse.” Do you think this is true? Why or why not?

**Wrap Up**:

1. What does it feel like when a teasing situation “crosses the line” from harmless to harmful?

2. What are some different forms of cyberbullying?

3. What advice would you give to someone who feels cyberbullied?