

Project idea: „Word wash“

Competencies: Communication skills and judgment

Age group: 12-15 years

Project duration: 90 minutes

Link to learning module: www.teachtoday.de/en/wordwash

Project objectives

The young people are strengthened in critically questioning their own and others' communication behavior on the Internet and in promoting a positive communication climate.

The young people

- The young people are strengthened in critically questioning their own and others' communication behavior on the Internet and in promoting a positive communication climate.

Subject and methods

The young people

- research their own and other people's comments in (their own) social networks, such as WhatsApp, YouTube or Instagram.
- analyze these comments and cluster them into "good" and "bad" based on their own code of values.
- reformulate the negative comments into factual, respectful comments.
- create a taboo list of all negative words or expressions.

Activities and behaviors

The young people

- exchange positive and negative comments on social networks.
- agree on appropriate rules of communication and behavior on the Internet.
- are sensitized to developing empathy for other people and situations.

Social communications

The young people

- reflect on their own values.

Personal competence



- draw conclusions for themselves regarding their reactions to bad comments and their solidarity behavior in the event of insults and bullying.
- review their own communication behavior on the Net.

Introduction

Comments rewritten

You can always find them under videos, photos or other posts: Comments that evaluate what has been posted. But the communication climate is sometimes very rough and not very respectful.

Take a critical look at your own digital environment. Take a clear position. Explore the limits and freedoms of communication with each other: With the "Word Wash" project idea, young people reflect on their digital world of comments and actively work on a positive and respectful communication climate.

Project procedure

The young people gain an overview of the communication culture in their chats or platforms of choice. On the basis of these comments, they lead a short discussion about respectful communication on the Internet. They specifically research negative comments and lead a discussion about the selection they have made. They then rephrase the negative comments into respectful language and create a taboo list to guide their future online communication.

Phase description | Social form

Phase 1 | Plenary

Preparation:

In preparation for the project day, the teacher selects about 5-7 negative or disrespectful and positive or respectful online comments and writes each one down on a piece of paper. Each piece of paper is hidden under a chair in the group room.

On the project day, the young people are asked to look under their chair to set the mood. Whoever finds a piece of paper reads the comment aloud. Afterwards, everyone rates the comment with thumbs up or thumbs down. Afterwards, the young people discuss why they feel the respective comments are positive or negative.

Common understanding of values based on the selection of comments.

Phase 2 | Group work

The young people are divided into groups of about 6. Each group selects about 5-7 negative comments from their own digital environment on the Internet and writes them down on a piece of paper.

Collection of negative comments



The groups then discuss what they found during their research work. Questions such as:

- What is your impression of communication on social networks?
- Was it difficult to find negative comments?
- What predominates: negative or positive comments?
- How do you rate the negative comments?

Phase 3 | Group work

Each group now performs a "word wash" on the negative comments they have picked out. This means that the young people rewrite the comments in such a way that the statement is retained, but it is expressed in a fair and respectful way.

Poster, taboo list

A list of respectful or neutral ways of expressing the opinion can also be handed out to the children to help them. The young people record the "washed" comments in writing on a larger poster in juxtaposition with the respective negative comment.

Afterwards, each group writes down a taboo list for itself, on which the expressions are recorded that in their opinion are transgressive.

Phase 4 | Plenum

In plenary, each group presents its results of the "word wash", i.e. the poster and the taboo list. Together they discuss how the individual groups managed to rephrase the negative comments. Based on the taboo lists, the young people work together to develop rules of conduct for fair communication.

Rules of conduct
in the chat

Continuation

The project idea serves as an initial introduction to the topic of "Hate on the Net or Hate Speech" and can be carried out as an introduction as well as a preventive measure in everyday school or team life.

Notes



