



## Class Discussion # 6

# Games Lure; Harassment & Online Gaming

**Presenter Overview:** The Games Lure discussion explores how both physical and virtual games can leave teens vulnerable to bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation. Physical contact is normal in many sports, and overly aggressive or inappropriate touching may at first be excused as unintentional. Such behaviors often begin innocently, then escalate into bullying or sexual exploitation.

Online interactive gaming and social networking sites have their own risks, including bullying, harassment and meet ups. Encourage teens to share minimal personal information. Even if someone has only one piece of a teen's personal information (name or phone number), they can usually locate the teen's physical address.

Games that include the use of restraints prevent young people from protecting themselves or escaping. Teens should not allow anyone to restrain, tie them up or place them in isolation, even under the ruse of a game, stunt or magic trick.

 <p><b>Key Points:</b> Grades 7-8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep gaming passwords and other personal information private.</li> <li>• Report harassment to game administrators.</li> <li>• Games and sports involving body contact can provide opportunities for bullying/abuse.</li> <li>• Inappropriate touching, sexual comments or requests to remove clothing during a game can be refused and reported.</li> <li>• Call out others on sexist jokes, catcalling and use of demeaning language.</li> <li>• Activities that involve restraints (even if they are supposedly part of a game or practical joke) should be avoided.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Vocabulary:</b></p>	<p>physical restraints, catcalling, demeaning, sexual harassment</p>
 <p><b>Props:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Games Lure Newscast: Student Anchor Script &amp; Video News Clip #6</li> <li>2. Roll of duct tape, length of rope, and/or handcuffs</li> <li>3. Student Handout: <i>Sexual Harassment: Flirting or Harassment</i>, p.44</li> <li>4. Student Worksheet: Gaming Safety Tips for Teens, p. 45</li> </ol>

## The Presentation: Games Lure; Harassment & Online Gaming

**Quick Review:** After discussing the Name Lure, we'll remember how over-sharing can put us at risk of identity theft and in some cases, physical harm. We talked about the crime of posing (impersonating others) and we identified the top 5 pieces of personal information teens should keep private. Who can name the five? (*Have students name the top 5 pieces of personal info to keep private; listed on p. 40, in #8.*) We discussed how we shouldn't automatically trust, or go with someone, just because they know our name.

### Learning Objectives:

**(Show or perform the student-led "Game Lure" Newscast.)** Applause, please, for our News Team and Student Anchors! (*Applause.*) As demonstrated in the Newscast, while online gaming is usually fun and safe, it can lead to bullying, harassment or sexual exploitation. Sports and body contact games can also provide opportunities for sexual abuse. Let's talk about how this could happen so we can help keep gaming and sports entertaining, healthy and safe.

### Discussion:

1. Which sports do you play?  
(*Student responses.*)
2. What are some examples of sports, games and other activities that involve physical contact?  
*Wrestling, football, soccer, basketball, gymnastics, cheerleading, others.*  
Many sports involve physical contact. When does physical contact cross the line from game to abuse?  
*When it leads to physical aggression, inappropriate touching or sexual harassment.*



3. (*Distribute Student Handout, Sexual Harassment: Flirting or Harassment?, p.44*)  
What is sexual harassment? Unwanted sexual behavior  
Review the different forms of Sexual Harassment on the handout:  
**Physical contact**, like grabbing, pinching, touching your breast or butt or other body parts, or kissing you against your will;  
**Sexual comments**, like name-calling (slut, fag), starting rumors about you, making sexual jokes at your expense, or making sexual gestures at or about you;  
**Sexual propositions**, like repeatedly asking you out when you've said no, or asking you to be intimate.  
**Unwanted communication**, like texts, phone calls, letters, or e-mails. These can be mean, nasty, or threatening, or they can seem flattering or nice but still make you feel uneasy.

Some flirting between teens is normal and healthy, but sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between flirting and sexual harassment. Let's review the two lists on the handout to help us figure it out.  
(*Review Student Handout, Sexual Harassment: Flirting or Harassment?*)

4. Is it ever okay to tell sexist jokes - ones that show prejudice or discrimination against a gender? **No**.  
Is it ever okay to make catcalls - whistle, shout or comment of a sexual nature? **No**.  
Is it ever okay to use demeaning language to belittle or humiliate others? **No**.  
These types of behavior are never acceptable, and can lead to more abusive actions. It's important to always speak out against such behaviors and report incidents to a trusted adult.
5. What can we do if someone harasses us or makes inappropriate sexual comments or advances?  
*Call them on it. Tell them to stop because you do not like it.*  
Yes, we can stand up for our rights. What if they don't stop? *Report the harassment to an adult.*  
After all, what is Teen Lures Prevention all about?  
*Talking openly about bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation to help prevent such behaviors.*

Why shouldn't we be embarrassed or afraid to tell someone?  
*Because we didn't do anything wrong. We are standing up for our right to live abuse-free.*  
Is bullying, harassment or sexual abuse ever the victim's fault? **No, fault lies solely with the offender.**

## Grade 7: Practice Scenario

Beckett really likes Sadira. She's smart, interesting and funny. Beckett always gives Sadira a lot of attention and usually Sadira just smiles and blushes a little bit. Lately, Beckett has started to comment on Sadira's outfits. Sadira is no longer smiling. In fact, she doesn't seem happy about it at all. Yesterday, Sadira went out of her way to avoid Beckett after he said he liked the way her shirt fit her "nice and snug."

- Is it okay for Beckett to like Sadira? **Yes.**
- At first, did Beckett's behavior seem okay? **Yes.**
- Has Beckett's behavior changed? **Yes.**
- What are some signs that Sadira no longer wants Beckett's attention or comments?  
*Sadira is not happy with Beckett commenting on her outfits, she is not flirting back with him  
Sadira is avoiding Beckett since he made an inappropriate comment about her shirt.*
- Was Beckett's behavior yesterday flirting or sexual harassment? **It was Sexual Harassment.**
- Should Beckett stop his behavior immediately? **Yes.**
- Should Beckett apologize to Sadira? **Yes.**

6. Is there anything a teen says, does or wears that gives another person the right to bully, harass or sexually abuse them? **No**. Teen victims are not at fault. The harasser/abuser is solely responsible.

Most of the time, flirting between teenagers who are about the same age is just that: flirting. It's a normal and healthy part of growing up. So, let's keep it that way by making sure it's welcome, mutual and respectful.

7. Most people who teach, coach or help out with athletics are doing it for the right reasons.  
But, is it possible that a sexual offender could obtain a position, like coach, to get close to teens? **Yes**.  
Sex offenders look for jobs and volunteer positions where they have regular contact with teenagers.



Who else could sexually harass or touch us inappropriately during a game or changing/shower time?  
*One of our peers or teammates.*

What can we do if someone harasses us, or touches another player inappropriately, during sports, games, or other activities?

- *Tell the person they've overstepped our personal boundaries.*
- *Tell a trusted adult about the harassment or touching as soon as possible.*
- *Step up to support friends in this situation.*

8. Under pretense of a game or stunt, some teens are tricked into being restrained or placed in isolation. (Display handcuffs or duct tape.) If someone, even a friend, wants to handcuff or tie us up, what should we do?

*Refuse to let them, and leave if feeling threatened.*

What if they say it is just part of a trick or a joke?

*Still refuse to let them.*

Why should we refuse to let anyone, especially an adult or older teenager, handcuff or tie us up?

*Restraints are unsafe. They make it almost impossible to protect ourselves or to get away.*

9. What about game sites and networks? Can online gaming become a negative experience? How? (Allow students to give responses. Offer responses below that are not suggested.)

*Other players, including friends, can hack your account if you share your password(s).*

*Players harassing other players, often with disrespectful, disgusting or overtly sexual comments.*

*Chat/video options can lead to unwanted bullying, inappropriate conversations and/or pornography.*

10. How can we help keep interactive gaming problem-free?

*Be respectful to others when gaming and expect respect in return.*

*Use self-help options, including blocking other players, muting them or kicking them out of the game.*

*Use the game's reporting features to report offenders to game administrators.*

*Block, and don't respond to, anything with mean, threatening or sexual content.*

11. If a friend asks for your game password, should you share it with them? **No.**

Remember, your personal information is extremely valuable. It's best to **keep all passwords private!**

12. Most of the time, online interactive gaming and sports are fun and safe, so enjoy!

## Grade 8: Classroom Activity

Distribute the Student Worksheet, **Gaming Safety Tips for Teens** on p. 45.

Review the provided safety tips as a class, and then direct students to research (5) additional safety tips to complete the Worksheet, either in-class or as homework.

Consider having students vote on the top three most important safety tips.

### Discussion Recap: To recap the Games Lure:

- Keep gaming passwords and other personal information private.
- Report harassment to game administrators.
- Games and sports involving body contact can provide opportunities for bullying/abuse.
- Inappropriate touching, sexual comments or requests to remove clothing during a game can be refused and reported.
- Call out others on sexist jokes, catcalling and use of demeaning language.
- Activities that involve restraints (even if they are supposedly part of a game or practical joke) should be avoided.



# Sexual Harassment

## What is it?

**Sexual harassment** is unwanted sexual behavior. It may take different forms, including:

- **Physical contact**, like grabbing, pinching, touching your breast or butt or other body parts, or kissing you against your will;
- **Sexual comments**, like name-calling (slut, fag), starting rumors about you, making sexual jokes at your expense, or making sexual gestures at or about you;
- **Sexual propositions**, like repeatedly asking you out when you've said no, or asking you to be intimate;
- **Unwanted communication**, like texts, phone calls, letters, or e-mails. These can be mean, nasty, or threatening, or they can seem flattering or nice but still make you uncomfortable.

*These are only examples; there may be other forms of behavior that are not listed here but still can be considered sexual harassment.*

Both the harasser and the victim can be either male or female, and they do not have to be the opposite sex. The harasser can be another teenager or an adult. (NOTE: An adult flirting with a minor is not normal or appropriate behavior.)

**Some flirting between teens is normal and healthy, but sometimes it can be hard to tell the difference between flirting and sexual harassment. The lists below can help you figure it out.**

### Flirting

- Flirting is welcome attention.
- Flirting goes both ways.
- Flirting makes you feel flattered or attractive.
- Flirting makes you feel in control.
- Flirting makes you feel good about yourself.
- Flirting is legal in school.

### Harassment

- Sexual harassment is not wanted.
- Sexual harassment is one-sided.
- Sexual harassment makes you feel put down or ugly.
- Sexual harassment makes you feel powerless.
- Sexual harassment makes you feel bad or dirty.
- Sexual harassment is a violation of school rules and state/federal laws.

If you think you are flirting with someone, **but they do not respond the way you want them to**, consider this...

- ⇒ If the person does not seem happy with your attention,
- ⇒ if you flirt but they do not flirt back,
- ⇒ if you make a sexual joke and they do not laugh,
- ⇒ if the person seems to be avoiding you...

...you might be making them uncomfortable. The bottom line is that **if the person receiving your sexual or romantic attention doesn't want it and you continue, that's harassment and you should stop it.**



## Gaming Safety Tips for Teens

Online gaming is a fun way to connect with friends and other gamers throughout the world.

To keep online gaming safe:  
**Protect your personal information and passwords.  
Use private settings. Report harassment & cyberbullying.**



-  **Make Passwords Long & Strong:** Use a strong password for your gaming accounts. Make certain your password has at least eight characters and uses numbers, letters, and symbols. Always keep passwords private.
-  **Keep Personal Information Private:** Never reveal your full name, address, phone number, gender, age, or other private information. Keep your user name neutral. Use an avatar instead of an actual picture of yourself.
-  **Don't Accept Downloads from People You Don't Know:** This includes cheat programs that may claim to help you perform better in a game, but could actually be carrying malware. Stay informed about malware.
-  **Report Harassment & Cyberbullying:** Know how to block and/or report another player if they make you feel uneasy. Keep a record of what the other player says, and don't engage them in conversation.

Research (5) additional Gaming Safety Tips for Teens.

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