

SEXTORTION: WHAT TEENS NEED TO KNOW



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ▶ Students will be able to define sextortion.
- ▶ Students will be able to communicate benefits and risks associated with technology.
- ▶ Students will be able to identify and recall “very serious” behaviour (which is based on laws within the *Criminal Code* (Canada)).
- ▶ Students will be able to identify coercive behaviours and associated impacts.
- ▶ Students will know how to respond safely to sextortion and coercion.
- ▶ Students will know where to get help if they are negatively impacted by sexual pictures.



BACKGROUND

What is sextortion?

Simply put, sextortion is blackmail. It's when someone threatens to send a sexual image or video of you to other people if you don't pay them or provide more sexual content.

What is the non-consensual distribution of intimate images?

It is illegal for a person to distribute an “intimate image” of another person without that person's consent. If the intimate image involves someone under 18, it is generally illegal to distribute the image to others regardless of whether consent was provided.

Why Youth are Vulnerable

Teens' brains are wired for social interaction and bonding with others. Their need for acceptance and belonging strongly drives their decisions. Puberty increases experimentation, sexual curiosity and sexual arousal. These hallmarks of adolescence increase the vulnerability of youth towards sexual exploitation.

Required Material

- ▶ PowerPoint presentation: Sextortion
 - Educators and law enforcement agencies fill out the form [here](#) for access

Note: the PowerPoint presentation can be used as a stand-alone presentation or in conjunction with the activities in the lesson plan.

- ▶ Blank or lined paper*
- ▶ Chart paper*
- ▶ Markers*
- ▶ Scissors*
- ▶ Blank sticky note for each student*

Note: Materials with an asterisk () are not supplied.*

Sign-up to receive Cybertip.ca Alerts

Cybertip.ca Alerts are notifications sent out to inform the public of concerning technology trends affecting tweens/teens. Recognizing that it can be difficult to keep up with technology, signing up for these alerts provides you with important information to help keep children safe while using the various popular platforms on the Internet.

Visit: www.cybertip.ca/alerts



PRESENTATION

Activate Prior Knowledge and Predict

ACTIVITY: WORD SPLASH

- ▶ Post the following words: Nudes, Pictures, Demands, Threats, Money, Humiliation, Shame, Help, Illegal, Harmful, Dating.
- ▶ Select students to read out the words and as a class generate a prediction for what the lesson is about.
- ▶ As a class discuss how each word is linked to the class prediction.

ACTIVITY: BRAINSTORM

(Associated PowerPoint slides: 5-7)

- ▶ What are youth doing online?
- ▶ What are the benefits?
- ▶ What are the risks?

SHOW VIDEO:

(Associated PowerPoint slides: 2)

- ▶ Ask students to share their reaction to the video.

Direct Instruction

ACTIVITY: STAND UP/SIT DOWN

(Associated PowerPoint slides: 8-18)

Read out the following statements and ask students to stand up, or raise their hand, if they think the statement is true and to stay seated if they think it is false.

1. It's not a big deal to post nude pictures – it's just for fun!

False: The Internet is a public place and photos shared electronically can easily be shared beyond the intended audience.

Did you know that pictures and videos of a person under 18 who is naked or semi-naked can be illegal?

2. If you are sent a nude, you don't need to worry if it is on your phone.

False: A naked picture of someone under 18 years old is child pornography. If you receive a picture or video, delete it.

Discussion Extension

NEW LAW: Non-consensual Distribution of an Intimate Image

If someone has a sexual picture/video of you that was created in private circumstances and that person knowingly posts it online or shares it with someone else knowing that you would not consent to that (or being reckless about whether you would consent to it), the person could be charged.

3. Everything online is temporary...just press delete!

False: It is easy to lose control of what happens to information and images shared online.

4. Threatening another person in order to get a sexual picture from them is illegal.

True: It is very serious if someone threatens another person to get them to send a sexual picture/video/engage in sexual acts.

DEFINE SEXTORTION:

(Associated PowerPoint slide: 19)

Threatening to send a sexual image or video of someone unless they meet certain demands (pay money, send more nude images, get back into a relationship).

GUIDED PRACTICE

ACTIVITY: PAIR/SHARE

1. Arrange students into pairs and ask them to generate possible scenarios where sextortion could occur.
2. Ask them to consider the impact on someone who has such an experience and how might they feel? How might they respond?
3. As a class ask pairs to share.

SHOW VIDEOS:

(Associated PowerPoint slide: 20-22)

- ▶ It's Your Body, It's Your Image, Take Back Control
- ▶ Sharing Someone's Sext is Illegal
- ▶ Naked Mole Rat

ACTIVITY: CASE STUDIES WITH VENN DIAGRAM

(Associated PowerPoint slides: 23-26)

1. Arrange students into groups.
2. Hand out case studies.
3. Ask groups to complete a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences in the cases.
4. Next, have groups describe the serious issue(s) in their article.
5. Have students hypothesize possible impacts on the victim(s) in the article.
6. Ask the students to consider the possible consequences for the person engaging in the harmful behaviour.
7. Discuss findings as a class.

Case #1:

A 15-year-old sent a picture of his face to someone he met online. They took his face, morphed it onto another person's nude body and then threatened to send it all over the Internet if the boy didn't send money. The boy did not send the money and reported the person and the threat to Cybertip.ca.

Case #2:

A 15-year-old girl described that her ex-boyfriend, who goes to a different school, had a nude image of her. He was threatening to share the picture with peers at his school if she did not send him more nude images. The ex-boyfriend also told her peers about the nude image which resulted in her being bullied at school.

She denied his request for more images and begged him to delete her picture. She did not tell her parents about the image, ended up reporting the situation to Cybertip.ca and expressed that sending this picture was just a mistake.

Case #3:

Cybertip.ca received a report from a concerned parent regarding an incident involving her teenage son. He had been coerced to share sexual images with an online user who, at first, represented himself as a teenage girl. The suspect then threatened to distribute the images online if the youth did not comply with his demands for more images.

The adult male suspect was charged with over 400 luring, making and possessing child pornography, and extortion charges.

The suspect subsequently pled guilty to offences against over 80 victims (some of whom were not identified).

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DISCUSSION NOTES:

(Associated PowerPoint slide: 27)

Both boys and girls can be victims of sextortion:

- ▶ Boys are often blackmailed to send money or additional sexual pictures.
- ▶ Girls are often blackmailed to send additional sexual pictures or to get back together in a dating relationship.

Explain to students that in Canada, there are criminal offences that cover the following:

- ▶ Unwanted or illegal sexual contact.
- ▶ Acts that make others feel unsafe.
- ▶ Acts that hurt the reputation of another person.
- ▶ Acts that violate privacy.
- ▶ Underage sexual pictures and videos.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Why do you think these laws exist?

CONTROLLING BEHAVIOUR/COERCION:

(Associated PowerPoint slide: 29)

Explain that it is harmful when someone uses controlling behaviour to get someone to engage in sexual acts. Some examples include:

- ▶ Persistence
- ▶ Guilt
- ▶ Pity
- ▶ Silent treatment
- ▶ Threats
- ▶ Deception/tricking the person
- ▶ Emotional manipulation
- ▶ Intoxication - alcohol, drugs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ▶ Do you think some of these red flag behaviours could be mistaken for healthy rather than unhealthy behaviours?
- ▶ Identify which ones and explain how they may be mistaken as caring rather than controlling behaviour.

RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR SEXUAL PICTURES: *(Associated PowerPoint slide: 34)*

- ▶ [Naked Mole Rat gallery \(dontgetsexorted.ca\)](http://dontgetsexorted.ca)
- ▶ [Send This Instead \(sendthisinstead.com\)](http://sendthisinstead.com)

HARMFUL IMPACTS:

(Associated PowerPoint slide: 36)

One in four people saw a medical professional after being sextorted.¹ Share the possible harmful impacts on individuals when controlling tactics are used to get a person to participate in sexual activity:

- ▶ Feeling unsafe and fearful
- ▶ Feeling isolated and alone
- ▶ Feeling anxious and/or depressed
- ▶ Sadness, hopelessness
- ▶ Increased substance use
- ▶ Withdrawn/numbness
- ▶ Nausea, headaches
- ▶ Weight loss/weight gain
- ▶ Increased difficulty sleeping
- ▶ Increased difficulty concentrating
- ▶ Increased difficulty with memory
- ▶ Difficulty managing emotions

¹ Wolak and Finkelhor, 2016.

CLOSING

ACTIVITY: SCAVENGER HUNT

In pairs have students complete the scavenger hunt to find the following information. *Option: Students could be timed to create a competition!*

1. Define sextortion.
2. Define non-consensual distribution of intimate images.
3. Find five ways to keep safe from sextortion.
4. Find three memes, gifs, photos that could be sent instead when asked for nudes.
5. Find where to report a sexual picture that has been shared without your consent.
6. Find how to help a friend who has sexual pictures sent without consent.
7. Find steps to get a picture down from Instagram™.

Direct students to the following websites for the scavenger hunt:

- ▶ needhelpnow.ca
- ▶ sendthisinstead.com
- ▶ dontgetsexorted.ca

PLAY VIDEOS:

(Associated PowerPoint slide: 42)

- ▶ [#ChangeTheStory Manifesto](#)

EXIT SLIP

MOST IMPORTANT POINTS:

Ask students to write four important takeaways from the lesson.