

YouTube In The Classroom Script

PARENT Hi Ms. Westby thanks for taking the time to talk to me. I just have a few concerns with my daughter using YouTube in your class.

TEACHER Hey thanks for reaching out to me. I would be happy to talk about any concerns you have regarding YouTube. Could you tell me specifically what you are worried about?

PARENT Yeah, I'm just uncomfortable with my daughter being exposed to inappropriate YouTube videos that pop up. I also know there are a whole bunch of ads that can be inappropriate that the students may see.

TEACHER Yeah that's a good point. At our school we have an ad blocker called Ublock Origin. This limits inappropriate ads that pop up while students look at YouTube videos.

PARENT Oh great, I didn't know that was an option. I guess I still have some concerns about my daughter using YouTube in general. She's too young to have that kind of public exposure and vulnerability, after all she's only in Grade 4. There are so many internet creeps and predators and I don't want my daughter to be exposed to them.

TEACHER Before we dive into participating with YouTube, we are going to have an in depth conversation about online safety and what we should and should not be posting. We will talk about the difference between what is appropriate and inappropriate to post. I will also teach the students that what they put online is not every truly private, so they have the responsibility to be aware of what they're posting, and to not post anything that they wouldn't want everyone to have access to. In terms of your daughter's exposure to the public, the students work will be exclusively set as unlisted on YouTube. This means that the only people who can watch the video are people who have the specific URL. We will only be sharing these URLs amongst our students, and you will also have access to them through your child to monitor what is being put online. We might have group summary videos to share our learning and new perspectives with other people around the world; however, we will make sure to get everyone's consent before making this video public.

PARENT Thanks that is very helpful, but what if my daughter decides she doesn't want to have her videos on YouTube anymore? Is there a way to completely get rid of them?

TEACHER As I mentioned before, we are going to have many conversations about digital literacy and citizenship and how that is becoming a huge part of our society. It's unrealistic to think that students won't be engaging with technology, so my job is to teach them how to use technology as a tool, how to use it safely, and how to use it in a professional and educational way. Actually, not many people know that it's actually part

of the curriculum. If you are wanting to find it it is called Digital Citizenship Continuum from Kindergarten to Grade 12 on the Government of Saskatchewan website. If your daughter did want to delete the videos, that is an option.

PARENT That all sounds really great, but I am still very concerned about cyberbullying happening because I know that is a big issue today.

TEACHER That's a really good concern you have. One way that I will try to prevent this is through emphasizing the importance of how students should be treating one another on an online space. We will discuss the importance of being respectful towards others opinions, even if we do not share the same ones. During our classes the students will be practicing commenting on each other's YouTube videos in respectful ways. They will be encouraged to share their thoughts on what they liked about each other's videos. I will also be able to watch everything that the students are posting regarding videos and their comments. This way I will be able to monitor and deal with any disrespectful comments that do get made.

PARENT Okay perfect, I'm really happy that you'll be teaching them about how to be respectful online and how that can tie back to their real lives. I'm still worried about the amount of screen time they will be having, as I know that they will get lots during their spare time at home. I just don't think that schools are the place to get even more screen time.

TEACHER Screen time is a concern for sure, but we try to ensure that students gets lots of times away from screens as well. For example, planning videos and collaborating ideas could be technology free times. Although screen time is a concern, we are trying to encourage students to go beyond just the content use of technology. The larger overarching goal is to show how technology allows for new forms of expression, identity, celebration, empowerment, and community. Creating these videos allows students to have a voice and presence inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to having their own voice and platform for their perspectives, they also will have access to and know how to find educational resources to help grow their knowledge and understanding about various topics, which in turn enhances their social awareness.

PARENT Oh wow I didn't know that was the goal with technology use in the classroom. Although I am still a little bit hesitant about technology, which might be just because of my age, I am definitely willing to let my daughter to participate in this. I would love it if you could keep me updated in regards to technology use in the classroom if possible.

TEACHER Of course! Thanks for reaching out with your concerns, I am happy to discuss what is happening in the classroom. These are very real concerns, so I understand where you are coming from. I will definitely keep in contact with you about our technology use to ease your worries. And feel free to check out the URLs that your daughter has to keep updated as well. Thanks!

PARENT Thanks bye!