



Diversity, Harassment and Bullying Assignment

“A community that excludes even one of its members is no community at all.” ~ Dan Wilkins

Instructions: This assignment comprises five sections that require you to learn more about harassment, bullying, and diversity, and to reflect upon your own actions. Each section has specific questions for you to answer and instructions to follow.

Format: You should respond to all questions in a word document. Each section specifies word count requirements. Responses should be written in an academic style. It is imperative that you communicate your views in a respectful tone and one that gives strength and merit to your claims. It is expected that your responses will demonstrate that you have completely reviewed the videos and resources provided.

Deadline: You will submit your completed assignment to the Community Standards Assistant at rezrules@uoguelph.ca by 11:59pm on the date specified in your sanction letter. Please include the title of your assignment in the subject line of your email.

Section 1

As you have likely heard, the phenomenon of bullying has reached catastrophic proportions in North America. Please watch the video at the following link to see the announcement at a city council meeting in Fort Worth, Texas by council member Joel Burns that sparked the “It Gets Better” project:

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/joel_burns_tells_gay_teens_it_gets_better.html

Once you have reviewed the video, please answer the following questions. All responses to these questions should total a minimum of **100 words**.

Questions:

- a) After watching this video how do you think bullying affects both the individual and the community?
 - b) How is bullying harmful even to those who are not the direct targets?
 - c) What part of the video affected you the most, and how did it affect you?
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Section 2

Please read the following article from CTV News about cyber bullying and answer the questions that

follow. Your responses to all questions should total a minimum of **150 words**.

CYBER BULLYING VICTIMS MOST DEPRESSED

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

CTV.ca News Staff

Cyber-bullying may be even tougher for kids to handle than "traditional" bullying involving beatings, name-calling or social shunning, researchers have found.

Researchers with the U.S. National Institutes of Health's Institute of Child Health and Human Development have found that kids who are the targets of cyber-bullying at school are at greater risk for depression than are the youth who bully them -- a contrast to findings on traditional bullying.

Past studies on traditional bullying show that "bully-victims" -- those people who both bully others and are bullied themselves -- are more likely to report feelings of depression than any other bullying group.

But cyber-bullies appear to be less depressed than their victims.

Cyber bullying involves written attacks or aggressive behaviors by email or posted on websites. The researchers think that the lack of face-to-face contact makes the dynamic of cyber-bullying different from traditional bullying.

In cyber attacks, victims usually don't see their harasser and may not even be able to identify them. That can make cyber-bullies feel vulnerable to repercussions.

Their victims, meanwhile, may be "more likely to feel isolated, dehumanized or helpless at the time of the attack," the study authors wrote in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

Jing Wang, Tonja Nansel and Ronald Iannotti reached their findings after analyzing data from a 2005/2006 survey that included 4,500 students from Grade 6 to Grade 10.

Students were asked about recent feelings of sadness, grouchiness, inability to concentrate, and sleep disturbances. They were also asked whether they were involved with bullying, whether as perpetrators or victims.

The researchers classified bullying others or being bullied "two or three times a month" as frequent, and "only once or twice" as occasional. Respondents were further classified as either: bullies, victims, or bully-victims.

They found:

- For physical bullying, no differences were found in depression scores among bullies, victims, or bully-victims.
- For verbal and relational bullying, victims and bully-victims reported higher levels of depression than bullies.
- For cyber bullying, frequent victims reported significantly higher levels of depression than frequent bullies and marginally higher depression than frequent bully-victims.

Dr. Iannotti, the study's senior author, notes that bullying interferes with scholastic achievement, development of social skills, and general feelings of well being.

In a study published last year, Dr. Iannotti's team reported that the prevalence of bullying among U.S. youth was about 21 per cent. Of those who had been bullied at least once in the last two months, 53.6 percent had been bullied verbally, 51.4 percent bullied socially (excluded or ostracized), and 13.6 per cent were cyber-bullied.

<http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/Health/20100921/cyber-bullying-100921/>

Questions:

1. While the internet is a useful and essential resource in today's society, there are a wealth of new issues that have arisen from the internet in terms of bullying and social interactions. How has the internet changed the face of bullying?
 2. Why do you think someone might choose to be a cyber bully, rather than physically or verbally bullying a victim?
 3. How does cyber bullying affect both the victim and the bully? How does this outcome compare to how verbal and physical bullying usually affects the two parties?
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Section 3

Bullying occurs in universities, colleges, workplaces, and even in the home. Please follow the link below to read the story of Matthew Shepard, and watch the video at the bottom of the page, outlining his life, death, and the legacy he left for his family, friends, and community:

<http://www.matthewshepard.org/our-story>

Once you have reviewed the site, answer the following questions. Your responses for all questions should total a minimum of **200 words**.

Questions:

- a) Summarize in your own words what happened to Matthew Shepard. How does this make you feel? What struck you about his story?
 - b) Near the end of the video, what did Denis Shepard, Matthew's father, say that his biggest hope for other fathers is? How does this make you feel?
 - c) Matthew's death occurred while he was a student at the University of Wyoming. What responsibility do you feel an institution, such as the university, has to uphold the rights and dignities of its members? Why are upholding these rights fundamental to the goal of fostering learning and community?
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Section 4

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the inherent dignity of all human beings. Please follow the link below for an overview of the Student Rights and Responsibilities that the University upholds.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/geninfo/geninfo-srr-sr.shtml>

Once you have reviewed the site, answer the following questions. Your responses should total a minimum of **200 words**.

Questions:

- a) What does it mean to you to have a “right” to something?
 - b) Why do you think that having a right also carries with it an accompanying “responsibility”?
 - c) Having reflected upon bullying throughout this assignment, why do you feel it is important that the University of Guelph endorses and actively maintains these Student Rights and Responsibilities surrounding harassment and human rights?
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Section 5: Personal Reflection

Now that you have had the opportunity to explore the ideas of bullying, harassment and diversity, it is essential that you take time to reflect upon your own actions and experiences. Answer the following questions. Your responses for all questions should total a minimum of **250 words**.

Questions:

1. How has learning about any of the issues presented in this assignment changed the way you view bullying and harassment? How have your ideas about diversity changed?
2. How has this assignment helped you to reflect upon the incident you were involved with?
3. How can you use what you have learned in this assignment to move forward from your incident and avoid making similar choices in the future?
4. What are three things that you, as a University of Guelph student, can do to prevent all forms of bullying and harassment from occurring in a more general sense?