RULES OF NET ETIQUETTE

by:

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Humans, as social beings need to communicate. The advances in technology allowed people to use different smart devices to make lives easier, and one of its major use is for communication. Some of these advances are the use of the internet and social media.

Similar to face-to-face communication, there are some rules and manners that everyone should follow when communicating online, and this is called "Net Etiquette". This article will discuss different rules everyone must follow to have a peaceful and positive communication online.

Rule #1. Be nice and respectful.

Showing respect should not be limited to personal meetings or for those people you are acquainted with. Remember that social media platforms are only a medium of communication and real people are managing these accounts, which is the same as yours.

Rule #2. Don’t use bad language.

The language people display their personality. The use of bad language slowly creeps into the vocabulary of a person without them realizing that it becomes part of their natural reactions in different situations. Moreover, this leaves a negative impression, displays a lack of control, and shows a negative attitude and immaturity.
Rule #3. Don’t spread rumors or lies.

Words and writing are powerful. Spreading rumors and lies are forms of defamation and/or bullying, and these are against the law. Always remember that your words can be used against you, and what you post online will be recorded in the database, even when you remove it.

Rule #4. Use proper capitalization.

Using upper-case letters means a loud voice. It is usually used to emphasize a word or phrase, and it displays different emotions such as, but not limited to excitement, anger, or disbelief. Without hearing the tone of voice, readers may interpret what you say differently and be offended.

Here’s an example: A sender wants to ask what the reader is doing at that time and sent a message: "WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" This could mean a lot to the reader, uncertain if the tone of voice is surprised, angry, or in disbelief. This may look simple but it could lead to misunderstandings. Always be cautious about what you post and how you deliver the message.

Rule #5. Don’t break the law.

There are different kinds of crimes committed online, it may be in forms of scams, libel, threats, identity theft, and many more. Thus, such crimes are punishable by law. Along with this, it is also common for people to spread the news which may give a negative effect not only to you but to your loved ones as well.

Rule #6. Control flame wars.

"Flaming" is when the fires of gossip get out of control and rapidly spread. Don't get involved whenever there is an emotional discussion between people, especially if the discussion will make you break any rule of net etiquette.
Rule #7. Be forgiving.

People make mistakes. It may be unintentional and you should let small things pass. Moreover, forgiveness shows the maturity and happiness of a person. Forgiveness frees the person and allows them to live in the present without holding on to any resentment and/or anger.

Now that you know the rules for net etiquette, practice it and be a good example to other people. Share your newly acquired knowledge and have a positive online experience!

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