

# Embracing Freedom of Expression Online

A Guide for Youth

## What is Freedom of Expression?

Freedom of expression is the right to freely express one's opinions, ideas, and beliefs, whether online or offline, without censorship or restraint.<sup>(1)</sup>

## Responsible Expression Etiquette

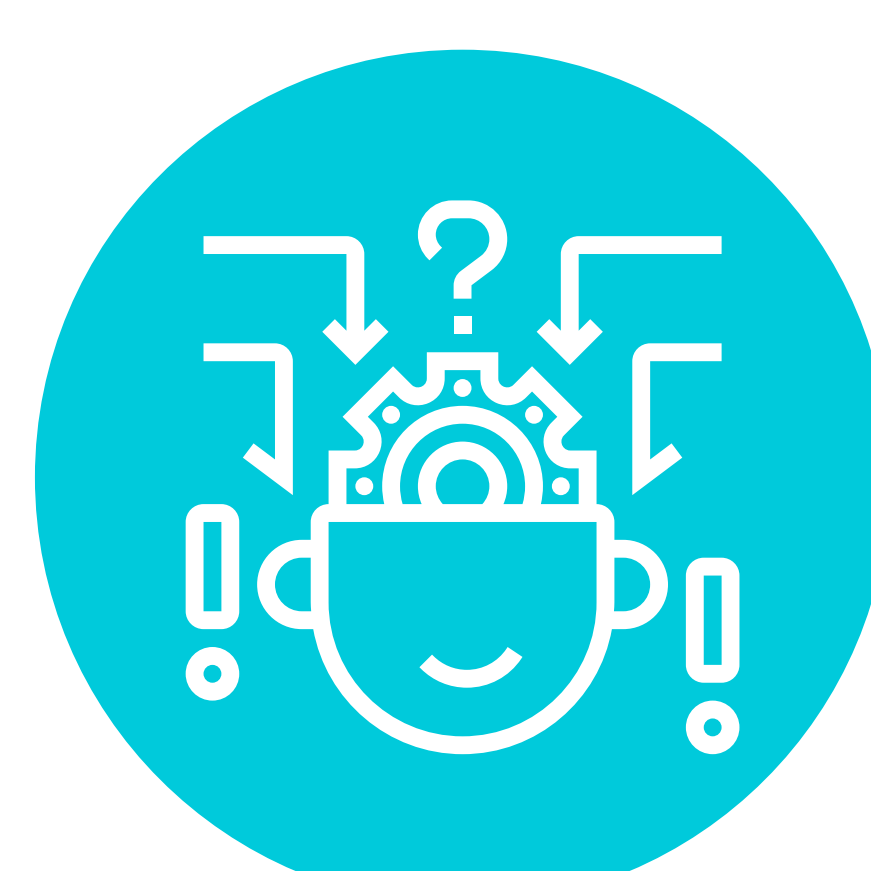
### Respect for others

While exercising your right to free expression, it's essential to respect the rights and feelings of others and avoid spreading hate speech, misinformation, or harmful content.



### Critical thinking

Embrace critical thinking skills to evaluate information critically, distinguish between fact and opinion, and engage in constructive dialogue and debate.



## Staying Safe While Speaking Out

### Protecting privacy

Safeguard your personal information and adjust your privacy settings to control who can access your content and interact with you online.



### Cyberbullying awareness

It's crucial to be fully aware of the potential impact of your words and actions online. By taking a stand against cyberbullying and promoting kindness, empathy, and respect in online interactions, you are equipping yourself with the tools to navigate online spaces more safely.



## Understanding the Limits of Free Expression



### Legal Considerations

Familiarize yourself with the legal boundaries of free expression in your country or region, including laws governing hate speech, defamation, and harassment.



### Platform Policies

Respect online platform community guidelines and terms of service, which may restrict certain types of content or behavior.

## Building a Positive Online Community



### Be an upstander

Stand up against online harassment, hate speech, and cyberbullying by supporting victims, reporting abusive behavior, and promoting positive online norms.



### Foster inclusivity

Embrace diversity and inclusivity in online interactions, respecting different perspectives, cultures, and backgrounds.

## Remember!

Freedom of expression is a powerful tool for self-expression and social change, but it comes with responsibilities. By embracing responsible expression, protecting their privacy, and fostering positive online communities, youth can harness the power of the internet to amplify their voices and create a safer and more inclusive digital world.

Citations

(1) <https://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein:journals/upitt40&div=30&id=&page=>