

ACI CASE STUDY

SEC-UR-ITY. YOU ARE AT THE CENTRE

HOW A CIVICS CLASS TACKLED CYBERBULLYING

PROBLEM

Youth civic engagement activities and programs are critical for empowering young people to develop their skills and talents; participate in political, economic and social conversations; and become agents of change in their communities. Twenty-six students from Woodroffe High School decided to tackle an issue that was important to them - cybercrime. They wanted to create awareness on the effects of cybercrime, especially as it affects young Canadians in schools, public spaces, and at home.

SOLUTION

Students worked with Youth Ottawa facilitator Brenda Okorogba under the Active Citizenship Initiative to create a Public Service Announcement titled "SEC-UR-ITY. You are at the centre." **In the PSA students discussed:**

- What is cybercrime
- Types of cybercrime (Statistics on cybercrime in Canada)
- Effects of cybercrime
- How to avoid cybercrime/warning signs

Throughout the 8 week ACI program, Youth Ottawa helped prepare youth to feel agency over their circumstances and their futures. Students were able to expose social problems in the community that they cared about and inspired them to lead change. The PSA was shared both in the classroom and more broadly within the school.

IMPACT

Through the study of diverse theories, the grade 10 students learned that there are many different ways of seeing the world, leading them to become more informed and engaged citizens. Key takeaways from the ACI program included:

- Development of critical thinking
- Improved presentation skills - students learned to deliver information and ideas orally
- Collaboration - students collaborated in group settings for their projects and learned to effectively tailor their messages for different audiences/-media

The students presented their projects at Youth Ottawa's Youth Action Showcase, where they shared their project with community members, City Councillors, other students and teachers.

"They were very excited to have a platform to showcase their skills and their project they have developed during the ACI. Many of the students also had the opportunity to build strategic connections with other students, community partners, Youth Ottawa and OCDSB staff."

- Mrs. Smith

Teacher at Woodroffe High School