GRADE 8  
Digital Citizenship Strand:  Responsibility

Free Speech

**Essential Understanding:**
Free speech norms have changed with the advent of the Internet and social media.

**Learning Outcome(s):**
- Students will know and be able to understand how companies and government institutions balance protected free speech with speech considered hateful, harmful and/or offensive.

**Common Core Standard(s):**
- SL.8.2. Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind the presentation.

**IFE Skills:**
- Experiment with various types of multimedia software and online applications for artistic and personal expression
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<th>LEARNING/TEACHING ACTIVITIES</th>
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| **Mini Lesson**              | Students take the First Amendment Quiz.  
Elicit their understanding of what types of free speech are protected by the Constitution. | http://www.splic.org/page/first-amendment-quiz |
| **Guided Practice**          | Read the following article and discuss: Why did the court rule what the student posted on Facebook was considered free speech? | http://www.federaljack.com/facebook-gripes-protected-by-free-speech-ruling-says/ |
| **Independent Practice/Check for Student Understanding** | Working in groups, students will examine other examples of Facebook posts to determine if they would be protected free speech and why or why not. | Design sample posts: student opinion/complaint about a class assignment; student post about someone else in their class; offensive/hateful student post about another classmate; teacher posting complaints about students; teacher uploading classroom assignments. |
| **Sharing/Reflection**       | Students share out their findings and the whole class discusses:  
- How free can speech be on the Internet?  
- What speech should be protected?  
- What speech, if any, should be censored? | |
| **Assessment**               | Oral responses and an exit card listing what forms of free speech are protected. | |
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Follow up/Extensions:

Websites:
When Should Free Speech be Protected?
http://blogs.kqed.org/education/2015/01/16/free-speech-charlie-hebdo/

Silencing WikiLeaks:

WikiLeaks, Free Speech and National Security:
http://www.kqed.org/a/forum/R201012090900

Is Making Threats on Social Media a Crime?
http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/320e2b7e-f08d-48ca-bd86-e9b80fee8d8e/is-making-a-threat-on-social-media-a-crime/