

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS** For the following assignment, consider the questions listed. Write thoughtful answers and then save this assignment as, "netiquette - [your name]". Then submit your work in the Assignment Tool in **Sakai**.

## Introduction

Netiquette is defined by Virginia Shea as,

*Network etiquette — that is, the etiquette of cyberspace. And “etiquette” means “the forms required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be required in social or official life.” In other words, Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. (Shea)*

You are part of a community of learners at your school. Therefore, you need to consider how you act in this community. You already do this but perhaps you are unaware of it. For instance, when you approach two people talking, you know not to listen to what they are saying or interrupt them to ask a question. This is basic etiquette. Etiquette is social rules that guide our behavior from day to day.

Different societies have different etiquettes. For instance, some cultures consider it rude to make eye contact with authorities or the elderly. Others think it is very good to stand close to someone you have a lot of respect for. America is composed of people from many different ethnicities so maybe you have been fortunate enough to encounter these different etiquettes.

The internet-based community is just like any of the cultures that embody the behaviors previously mentioned, but this culture, this community, has no rules. Your job is to develop the rules. Your ideas will be posted in a threaded discussion, along with everyone else's, and as a community we will decide on our netiquette.

In order to begin this discussion, please consider the following situations below. Under each, there is a field in which you can enter your comments.

Each situation asks you to respond, “in the form of a rule.” This means your response should be formatted as such: “Community members will ....” Please use standard English grammar and composition rules while working on this assignment.

### Situation #1:

“Community member A thinks he or she is sending an email to a friend who is disrespectful towards community member B. However, community member A accidentally sent the email to a friend of community member B.”

Think about the impact that such a situation will have on your community. In the field below, please write a response, in the form of a rule, that would help guide community member's behavior when it comes to using email.

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### Situation #2:

“A person is participating in a threaded discussion, but he or she is posting negative, and/or distracting thoughts into the discussion. This is disrupting everyone else and is causing a commotion.”

Think about how this situation would distract from the assignments you were to work on and how it would hinder the learning of the community. In the field below, please write a response, in the form of a rule, that would help guide community member's behavior when it comes to participating in threaded discussion.

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### Situation #3:

“A student submits an assignment in the Drop Box. As part of their submission, they tell other community members about this great video they found on YouTube. As too many community members log on to the video, it slows the network down to a crawl and causes some community members to lose work or productivity.”

Think about how this situation would disrupt your or others’ work. In the field below, please write a response, in the form of a rule, that would help guide community members’ behavior when it comes to people’s time and/or bandwidth.

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### Situation #4:

“You are searching through your community members’ Profile pages reading through what your friends have posted about themselves. You notice that one member has an inappropriate picture posted which shows them hanging out with friends, rather than a basic head shot. In addition, you notice that their profile page has many spelling errors.”

Think about how this community member’s actions reflect on themselves and your learning community at large. In the field below, please write a response, in the form of a rule, that would help guide community members’ conduct in regards to their expression of themselves in the learning environment.

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### Situation #5:

“As part of an assignment, you are reading through a threaded discussion when you come across two community members sharing the secrets of another community member.”

Think about how this conduct will make the third party feel, and how it reflects on the two gossipers. In the field below, please write a response, in the form of a rule, that would help guide community members when it comes to another’s privacy.

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**DIRECTIONS for submission** Save this assignment as, “netiquette – [your name]” then submit your work to the Drop Box on **Sakai**. Please post your responses in the appropriate places in the threaded discussion under ‘Forum’ in **Sakai**. Once various rules have been composed, please comment freely considering which rules you would like to see adopted. Finally, if you have a similar rule for any situation as someone else does, please post anyway, as we will want to agree on final wording. All comments are welcome additions to the learning community.