



Combat Hate: A Digital Media Literacy Workshop

Across the country we are seeing an increase in the proliferation of hateful speech and images motivated by bias toward race, gender, religion, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, among other characteristics. We share the concern with our community that increased online accessibility is bringing harmful messaging into the private lives of young people, on their personal devices.

The Mobile Museum of Tolerance (MMOT) is bringing a dynamic, classroom-based workshop to engage students in critical thinking for decoding and rejecting online hate. This is an online safety curriculum aligned with International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) digital citizenship standards and built on foundational media literacy skills. Students will apply Center for Media Literacy (CML)'s "5 key questions" to diverse real life examples compiled by the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC)'s Research Department and will be challenged to interpret the messages and their impact.

We will have honest conversations about the types of content students are exposed to. We will be talking about the occurrence and negative outcomes of racism, religious intolerance, sexism, and homophobia. We have redacted the more offensive language, but some of the images may be of a sensitive nature. Your child may wish to discuss the lesson at home. The workshop concludes using an action planning worksheet which all students will take home for ongoing use and family discussion. We encourage wider discussion between adults and youths regarding online safety and responsible ways to address hate.

Here are some recommended materials specifically for parents to engage in conversations with their children about social media and prejudice.

Common Sense Media (Resources in English and Spanish) -

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/> and <https://www.common Sense Media.org/latino>

Parent Teacher Association Connected - <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/connected>

Family Online Safety Institute - <https://www.fosi.org/>

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance is a recognized provider of anti-bias and critical thinking education in Los Angeles with a well-known expertise in hate and extremism prevention. Drawing on the Museum's exhibit assets such as the "Digital Hate.com" exhibit and the "Assuming Responsibility" panel, the workshop is interactive and engages youth in determining their own solutions. Visit www.museumoftolerance.com/combathate to learn more.