

GRADE 6

Digital Drama Unplugged

How can you de-escalate digital drama so it doesn't go too far?



OVERVIEW

For kids, miscommunication is a common occurrence online and on social media. Plus, being behind a screen makes it easier to say things they wouldn't say in person. So how do we help kids avoid the pitfalls of digital drama? Help them learn tips on avoiding online drama in the first place and de-escalating drama when it happens.

Students will be able to:

- Reflect on how easily drama can escalate online.
- Identify de-escalation strategies when dealing with digital drama.
- Reflect on how digital drama can affect not only oneself but also those around us.

Lesson Snapshot

Estimated time: 45 mins.

Warm Up:	What Is Digital Drama?	5 mins.
Explore:	Where Do People Stand?	25 mins.
Wrap Up:	Act It Out	15 mins.

Key Standards Supported

Common Core ELA

L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.2.B, L.6.3, L.6.3.A, L.6.3.B, L.6.4, L.6.6, RI.6.1, RI.6.2, RI.6.3, RI.6.4, RI.6.6, RI.6.7, RI.6.10, SL.6.1, SL.6.1a, SL.6.1b, SL.6.1c, SL.6.1d, SL.6.2, SL.6.3, SL.6.4, SL.6.6, W.6.1, W.6.1a, W.6.1b, W

CASEL

1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 5f

AASL

I.A.1, I.A.2, I.B.1, I.B.2, I.B.3, I.C.1, I.D.1, I.D.2, I.D.3, I.D.4, II.A.1, II.A.2, II.B.1, II.B.2, II.B.3, II.C.1, II.C.2, II.D.1, II.D.2, II.D.3, III.A.1, III.A.2, III.B.1, III.B.2, III.C.1, III.C.2, III.D.1, III.D.2, IV.B.2, IV.B.4, V.A.1

ISTE

2a, 2b

What You'll Need

Spanish-language student and family resources available soon!

- Lesson Slides
- Video: Dealing With Digital Drama Watch
- Student Handout: Taking the Lead
 - Student Version
 - Teacher Version
- Lesson Quiz
 - Student Version
 - Teacher Version

Take-home resources

- Family Tips
- Family Activity
- Family Engagement Resources

LESSON PLAN

Key Vocabulary:

de-escalate
to lessen the intensity or anger in a conflict

digital drama

when people use devices, apps, or websites to start or further a conflict between people

Warm Up: What Is Digital Drama?

5 mins.

Before the lesson: This lesson involves students sharing their opinions on and ideas about scenarios, and there aren't necessarily right or wrong answers. Before opening up the discussion, it is recommended that teachers establish or review basic norms for discussion. Example norms could include (Slide 4):

- Respect others' viewpoints.
- Don't interrupt.
- Assume positive intent.
- Disagree respectfully.

1. **Ask:** *When there's a fight or an argument here at school or in public, how do people usually react?*

Invite students to respond. Ask: *Why do you think people sometimes run toward it or egg it on?*

2. **Explain** that one reason is that human beings are naturally attracted to drama. Ask: *What does the word "drama" mean?*

Invite students to respond. Explain that the word "drama" actually has different meanings but that they all connect to the idea of conflict. Refer to common examples of drama, including plays, movies, television shows, and even emotional conflict between people.

3. **Project Slide 5** and ask: *Using this last example, how does drama -- emotional conflict between people -- happen online? Can you think of any examples? Take turns sharing with your partner.*

Invite students to share examples, including how digital media played a role in the conflict. Remind students not to disclose names of people or specifics that may make others feel uncomfortable.

4. **Thank** students for sharing examples and project Slide 6. Explain that **digital drama** is *when people use devices, apps, or websites to start or further a conflict*. Digital drama can be different from in-person drama for a number of reasons:

- It can reach a big audience and reach them immediately.
- It can include images or videos that get people's attention.
- It can involve people posting things anonymously.

Explore: Where Do People Stand?

25 mins.

1. **Show the Teen Voices: Dealing with Digital Drama** video on Slide 7 and invite students to share out their responses to the two discussion questions. Prompt them to refer to specific lines from the video to support their responses.

2. **Divide** the class up into groups of four or five and pass out the **Taking the Lead Student Handout**. Call on a student to read the scenario aloud to the class. Or select five students to read the different parts of the scenario (as if role-playing). Confirm that students understand the basics of the scenario.

3. **Say:** *This is an example of digital drama that can start to get out of hand. But it could have turned out differently. To help us think about how, we're going to first take on the perspectives of the individuals involved.*

Direct students to Part 2 of the handout. Read the directions aloud. Assign a different role to each member of the group, or allow groups to choose their own roles. No roles should be duplicated within a group. (Slide 8)

Allow students five minutes to think about their viewpoints and complete Part 2.

4. **Explain** to students that they will now take turns sharing out with their group what they wrote based on the viewpoint they had. Allow 10 minutes for groups to share out.

5. **Project Slide 9** and say: *One thing that might have been helpful in this situation would be for someone to have de-escalated it. De-escalate means to lessen the intensity or anger in a conflict.* Prompt students to consider this idea as they complete the Reflection Questions on the handout.

6. **Invite** students to share out their answers to the Reflection Questions, and capture their responses to Question 2 on Slide 10. Sample responses include:

- Respond with a positive comment or action.
- Ignore the post.
- Talk (offline) with the person involved to try to de-escalate the situation.

Refer to the **Teacher Version** for additional ideas.

Wrap Up: Act It Out

15 mins.

1. **Mix** students up into different groups of four and say: *You're now going to get a chance to show these de-escalation strategies by acting out a digital drama scenario.* Project Slide 11 and have students read the scenario aloud.

2. **Project Slide 12** and read the directions.

3. **Have** students act out how they'd respond to their scenario. If time allows, have them do a second round with new roles or using a different strategy. Revisit Slides 10 and 11 as needed to remind students of the strategies and scenario details.

4. **Have** students complete the **Lesson Quiz**. Send home the **Family Activity** and **Family Tips**.