

How to Push Back When You're Not Sure People Will Listen To You

"Most gamers just want to play and have fun, not get involved in racial slurs that ruin the game."

If you're in a space where you don't know a lot of people offline, like a game, an online forum or some celebrity's profile, it may not seem like anyone will listen to you.

But your voice is just as loud as anyone else's, and every time you speak out you help to change people's ideas of what's normal there. That can have a bigger impact on how people act than what they actually believe!

My Notes



Poll

Where have you seen prejudice online?

What did other people say?



Source: MediaSmarts, *Young Canadians Pushing Back Against Hate Online*

Here are some ways of helping to show that hate and prejudice aren't normal:

Object.

Say as simply and calmly as you can that you don't agree with what's been said. Don't feel like you have to win every argument to make a difference: what matters is to show that prejudice isn't acceptable in your community.

Try saying: "I think that's totally wrong and I don't like hearing it here."

Echo.

It's important to be the first person to speak out against prejudice, but it's just as important to be the second one. Anytime you see someone else pushing back against hate, make sure to support them and show you agree.

Try saying: "I agree completely! We shouldn't have to put up with stuff like that here."

Warn them of the possible consequences.

A lot of people have lost their jobs or been turned down by universities because of things they've said online that came back to haunt them. Whole groups, forums and game guilds have been closed down because of what people in them have said and done, too.

Try saying: "That kind of stuff will get this whole forum shut down."

My Notes



"When someone goes too far and insults people or uses violent language, you report it, and other people can see what happens and report it themselves because they realise that the person went too far."

Remind them of the rules.

Most online platforms and communities have terms of service or other rules that don't allow hate or prejudice. Posting them as a reply is a good way to show everyone that those things aren't acceptable there.

Sharing the site's rules doesn't just help stop hate. It encourages new people to post more, too. To find the site's rules, search for 'Community Guidelines,' 'Community Standards' or 'Community Rules.'

Report.

If something happens that is definitely over the line, you should report it to the platform. (See <https://mediasmarts.ca/teacher-resources/how-report-hate-online> for how to do that.) Make sure to get a screenshot as evidence: see www.take-a-screenshot.org to find out how to do it on different browsers and devices.

<https://mediasmarts.ca/teacher-resources/how-report-hate-online>

Complain to advertisers.

If you see hate content on a platform with ads, like a social network or video sharing site, send a screenshot to let companies know where their ads are appearing.

The Stop Hate for Profit campaign (www.stophateforprofit.org) has tips on how to do this.

Leave.

If you don't have any other way of showing you don't agree, you can always leave.

If enough people do that, the people who run the space will see that allowing hate and prejudice to go unchallenged is keeping people away.

Talk to someone.

Don't forget you can talk to friends, parents, teachers and other people you rely on. They might be able to help you make a difference.

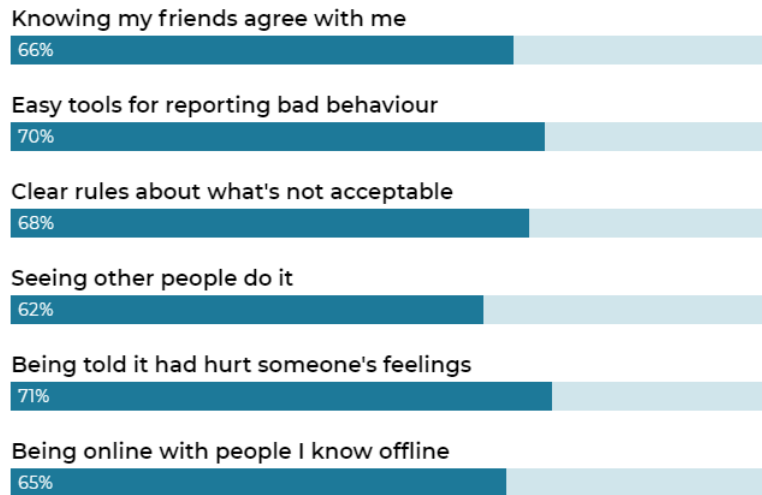
My Notes



Poll

Which of these would help you most in pushing back against prejudice online?

What did other people say?



Source: MediaSmarts, *Young Canadians Pushing Back Against Hate Online*

Whether you're speaking out against hate, reporting it, or just showing you don't agree, we all have the power to take a stand against hate online.

My Notes

