

## Think Before You Share

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Most of the time when people send things to you, they're okay with you sharing them with others. If you don't know for sure, think twice before doing this.

Most Canadian students believe it's right to get someone's permission before posting or sharing things with them in it: **nine out of ten** students think you should ask before posting a bad or embarrassing photo of someone and **more than half** think you should ask before posting *any* photo.

Students also have faith that their friends **will** do the right thing: **eight out of ten** say that if someone posts a photo of them that they don't want people to see, their first step would be to ask the poster to take it down – almost twice as many as the next-most-popular step.

If someone **shares something with you** with somebody else in it, ask yourself:

- Did the person who sent this to me mean for it to be shared?
- Did they have permission from the person who's in it?
- How would I feel if somebody shared something like this with me in it?

**If what you received makes that person look bad, would embarrass them or could hurt them if it got around, don't pass it on.** The person who sent it to you may have meant it as a joke, but jokes can be a lot less funny when something is seen by the wrong person.

A lot of people – boys especially – get pressured by their friends to share nude photos of their girlfriends or boyfriends. It can be hard to stand up to this pressure, but you have to think about how much giving in could hurt you and your girlfriend or boyfriend.

### Fixing things if they go wrong

Everyone makes bad choices sometimes. That doesn't mean that you shouldn't do everything you can to fix things:

- If you shared something you shouldn't have, the first step is to ask the people you sent it to *not* to pass it on.
- If someone else posted something you sent them, start by asking them to take it down. This is actually pretty effective most of the time.
- **Remember not to do anything while you're mad:** give yourself time to cool down and, if you can, talk to the person offline.
- If they refuse to take it down, don't try to get back at them by sharing private things they sent you, harassing them or getting your friends to gang up on them. For one thing, this almost always makes things worse. For another, the more you get back at them, the more it might look like it's just as much your fault as theirs.
- If you're tagged in a photo that you don't like, remember that a lot of photo-sharing and social networking sites may let you take your name off any pictures you've been tagged in.
- For more serious things, for instance if it's a partly or fully nude picture or video, if it's defamatory (it's not true and hurts your reputation) or if it's being used to harass or bully you, you can ask the site or service that was used to share it to take it down. In those cases you can report it to the police too.
- If you are in a situation where a person is threatening to share a nude photo of you unless you provide more nude photos – involve a trusted adult and contact police.