

# SOCIAL NETWORKING

## 10 Unwritten Laws of Web Etiquette

By Haely White (Tecca) | July 31, 2012

### Sharing With Friends Share Only the Stories You Want



GETTY IMAGES

You're not even finished with the first of many cups of liquid motivation, when you take in a morning hit of **Facebook**. Uh-oh. Looks like John Doe has posted 45 new photos dedicated to his latest head shot photography session. Hold your nausea, because he doesn't stop there. Next, he posts a pessimistic status update so verbose it could rival *The Lord of the Rings*. (Admit it — you waited for the movies, didn't you?) Click — unsubscribe.

The thing is, John Doe could very well be a decent dude, but his online presence is really a buzzkill. It's due time he and the rest of Webville take note of the unwritten laws of **web etiquette**. Here's a list of a handful of taboos to avoid in order to ensure your presence appears virtuous to all. (Taps magic wand on shoulder.)

#### 1. Don't overshare.

By now, it's common knowledge that not *everything* that happens in Vegas stays there. **Twitter** allows you to protect tweets by making them private to approved followers only. Facebook offers more options with **detailed group settings**. Once you've sorted distant relatives from the best friends, you can post those photos as proof that you snuck onstage at the **Thunder from Down Under** show in Vegas. Because some things are meant to be shared... just not with everyone.

#### 2. Don't forward emails.

Deny the urge to forward long emails with pictures of rainbows, insane chalk art, or (God forbid) recipe **chain letters**. (Unless, of course, it has anything to do with **Food On My Dog**, which is totally acceptable and worth clicking on right this second.)

#### 3. Don't update your Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram while dining with a friend.

You don't want to be that table of friends who are each individually entranced by their **iPhone** glow, now do you? Nothing says true friendship like ignoring table conversation to retweet **Kanye's latest gem**. (That was sarcasm, people. Don't be that guy!)

#### 4. Don't type in txt liNg0 when u dnt nd 2.

It's a slippery slope to text talk; next thing you know, you'll be LOL-ing like a **Justin Bieber** fan. Not that there's anything wrong with being a Belieber — just don't LOL like one.

## 5. Don't humble brag.

A humble brag, as **Urban Dictionary** phrases it, is “when you, usually consciously, try to get away with bragging about yourself by couching it in a phony show of humility.” In short, it's a way to brag without making it seem so painstakingly obvious. There's even a **Twitter handle** now dedicated to some of the best humble brags out there.

Now that you're armed with what not to do, here are five counter do's to redeem yourself. Consider the path to enlightenment paved!

### 1. Do take control of your social media privacy settings.

Both Twitter and Facebook have **options to hide your feed** from the public. It just takes a little time to set up the various groups, but we guarantee it's worth it so that only your real friends can see what happens when you mix margaritas with a dash of confidence.

### 2. Do use your right to unsubscribe.

It's called **freedom of speech**. Remind your mom to remove you from her forwarding list and to keep the cute kitten pics within the book club — that's **your thing**. Do actively unsubscribe, and turn that spam filter on. (Mmmm... Spam.)

### 3. Do keep it classy.

Play it polite and excuse yourself to email, text, or make a phone call. That may sound old-fashioned, but isn't it weird when you're sitting there having to listen to every word of someone's conversation? Good. We think so, too.

### 4. Do use brevity.

Novels are awesome — when they're bound in a book. Keep your social media posts brief and fun. Don't post detailed agendas or anything that takes up the entirety of your friends' news feeds. Your friends have other friends whose status updates they want to read.

### 5. Do be yourself.

Nothing lulls your followers to sleep like phony-sounding messages. Keep it real, and don't be afraid to be weird! As the late Jim Morrison **once questioned**, “Where's your will to be weird?” It's your quirks that we love, after all.

Now it's up to you to kindly pass along this column so we can set web etiquette straight. Post this on Facebook and Twitter — we're sure people won't mind even if you slip in a teensy bit of a humble brag. Because if you're helping others, it doesn't really count as a humble brag... does it?

*This article was written by **Haely White** and originally appeared on **Tecca**.*

ref.: <http://techland.time.com/2012/07/31/10-unwritten-laws-of-web-etiquette/>

# Teaching your kids the value of netiquette

Proper etiquette isn't just for the dinner table



Now is the time when everything seems to be mobile. Millions of new products are pumped out weekly and our kids (younger than ever) are gaining nearly unlimited access to the online world.

With that comes a responsibility for parents to teach their kids the proper social etiquette tools in relation to the net — also known as "**netiquette**" (short for social networking etiquette).

Co-founder and CEO of the social networking site for kids, **Everloop**, **Hilary DeCesare**, offers the following netiquette tips:

- **Start your message with the right greeting.** "Yo" might be cool with your BFF, but not with your Math Teacher.
- **Choose your words carefully.** Readers cannot see the smile on your face or see your body language, so stuff you type can lead to misunderstandings.
- **NEVER USE ALL CAPS IN YOUR MESSAGE.** It looks like you're yelling.
- **Don't write if you are angry or upset.** Wait till you calm down to write anything — then send your message.
- **Posture, posture, posture.** Good posture and sitting upright while on the computer is just as important as brushing your teeth, eating healthy, exercising and getting a good night's sleep.
- **Respect other people's privacy.** Do not share embarrassing photos or personal messages.
- **Treat everyone with respect.** Remember, people receiving your messages have feelings.

This article was written by **Tara Weng** and originally appeared on **GalTime**.

Ref.: <http://www.tecca.com/columns/teaching-your-kids-the-value-of-netiquette/>

## 25 Forum Posting Etiquette Tips

*By Pamela S Stevens*

1. Read the forums rules and guidelines before posting for the first time.
2. Search the other posts to see if your topic is already covered.
3. Use a meaningful title for your thread.
4. Do not use a forum to promote your product, service or business.
5. Be civil. Personal differences should be handled through email or IM and not through posts displayed to everyone.

6. Stay on topic.
7. Ignore spammers, respond to them personally and not through the board, or report them.
8. Do not submit a post that requires readers to download a large attachment. Either explain the attachment or, better yet, provide a link to the information.
9. Use plain text over HTML if you want your post to be readable by everyone.
10. In order to be understood by most people, use correct spelling, grammar and avoid slang unless you know the word or phrase will be understood by other members.
11. Do not double post (post the same message twice in one thread) or cross post (place the same message across several forums).
12. Act in a give and take manner; help others as often as or more than you ask for help.
13. Do not use all caps or SHOUT in your posts. In addition, one exclamation point is enough.
14. When replying to a post, do not quote more from the previous post than you have to.
15. Do not post new problems on someone else's thread and interrupt a topic of discussion.
16. Do not use someone else's thread for a private conversation.
17. Most forums prohibit warez, cracks or illegal downloading of software and similar topics.
18. Watch your sense of humor, posts may be read by people from a variety of backgrounds and ages.
19. Do not use a huge and annoying signature, a modest signature is fine, moderators may remove large ones anyway.
20. Do not post any information that you want private. Posts should not contain personal, identifiable information or content embarrassing to others.
21. Do not post content that violates a copyright.
22. Do not post "empty" or useless responses, such as just "lol" or "cool." Only post responses when you have something to contribute.
23. Write concisely and do not ramble.
24. Do not use words like "urgent" or "important" in your subject line, be patient.
25. Do not chastise newbies.

Ref.: <http://forum-services-review.toptenreviews.com/25-forum-posting-etiquette-tips.html>

**Look more here: [www.WebSafety.AboutPhilippines.ph](http://www.WebSafety.AboutPhilippines.ph)**