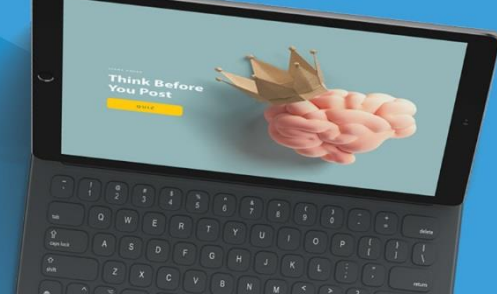




# Critical Thinking Online

## A guide for Staff



### About *Be Strong Online*

*Critical Thinking Online* is the seventh module in the Be Strong Online Ambassadors Programme from The Diana Award and Vodafone.

This peer-led programme aims to empower young people to teach their peers about digital skills and online safety, with modules exploring topics such as cyberbullying, selfies and self-esteem, digital footprint and coding.

For more information on the programme, visit [bestrongonline.antibullyingpro.com](http://bestrongonline.antibullyingpro.com)

### *Critical Thinking Online*

This module aims to open up a discussion between students about what is reliable online and what isn't. A recent Ofcom study found that one in five 12-15s believe information returned by a Google search must be true. Through interactive activities and discussion, these resources aim to challenge this and equip young people with the critical thinking skills they need to navigate the online world successfully.

### How it works

This programme uses a peer-to-peer format, which is based on the highly successful approach used by The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme.

The first steps to running this module successfully are recruiting a team of 6-8 Be Strong Online Ambassadors, a group of students who are responsible for delivering a 20-30 minute session on *Critical Thinking Online* with a group of younger students. We recommend choosing Be Strong Online Ambassadors from Years 8 or 9, who then deliver to a group of Year 7s.

### Training the Be Strong Online Ambassadors

You should run a training session with the Be Strong Online Ambassadors to do the following:

- Explore their role as a Be Strong Online Ambassadors
- Examine the Lesson Plan in depth
- Divide the 4 activity choices between the group and give pairs time to prepare and practice their activity. Be Strong Online Ambassadors then come together to demonstrate their activity to the rest of the group

### Options for the Be Strong Online Ambassadors' session with younger students

- Once the Be Strong Online Ambassadors feel confident enough after their training, arrange for them to deliver to a group of younger students
- They might like to do this as a team or in pairs
- They could extend the session to a full hour and run all four activity choices, perhaps in pairs in a carousel style around the room

### Activity Grades



A straightforward, structured activity to use if you want the students to understand this issue quickly



If you have more time and feel the students are more advanced in this area, use this activity

Moderately challenging activity which may need some extra time to practice and research



## Training the Be Strong Online Ambassadors

This training session is designed to take approximately 2 hours. If you feel that the Be Strong Online Ambassadors need more time before delivering their session, you may like to explore the topic further in another training session before they deliver.

Activity	Description	Approx. timings	Links to other resources
<b>Introductions</b>	Run an ice breaker activity if the students don't know each other; explain their task and role as Be Strong Online Ambassadors	20 minutes	Pledge Sheet in appendix
<b><i>Critical Thinking Online</i> Intro</b>	Definition of critical thinking, how this skill could be applied when using the internet	5 minutes	
<b>Examine Lesson Plan</b>	Hand out Lesson Plan, look through it for general overview; discuss learning objectives	5 minutes	<i>Critical Thinking Online</i> Lesson Plan; Slide 2 of PowerPoint
<b>Things to bear in mind</b>	Go over ground rules Be Strong Online Ambassadors need to explain students at start of session	5 minutes	P.6 of Lesson Plan; Slide 3 of PowerPoint
<b><i>Critical Thinking Discussion</i></b>	Practice running through the intro discussion Be Strong Online Ambassadors will run	20 minutes	P. 6-7 of lesson plan; Slide 4 of PowerPoint
<b>Activity Selection</b>	Divide the 4 activities between the group to prepare and present to the rest of the group; feedback and selection of activity	30 minutes	P. 6-14 of Lesson Plan; Activity sheets in appendix; Activity slides
<b>Follow-up Activities</b>	Discuss the follow-up activity; look at Student/Parent Info sheets they should hand out to everyone	5 minutes	Lesson Plan Appendix; Info Sheets
<b>Feedback</b>	How Be Strong Online Ambassadors might like to get feedback from students	5 minutes	P.16 of Lesson Plan
<b>Wrap-up</b>	Addressing any concerns from Be Strong Online Ambassadors; check for understanding; next steps	15 minutes	<i>Critical Thinking Online</i> Info sheet & Parent Info Sheet

For FAQs and more information, please visit [bestrongonline.antibullyingpro.com](http://bestrongonline.antibullyingpro.com)