

The Price of Shame

"Public shaming as a blood sport has to stop," says Monica Lewinsky. In 1998, she says, "I was Patient Zero of losing a personal reputation on a global scale almost instantaneously." Today, the kind of online public shaming she went through has become constant -- and can turn deadly. In a brave talk, she takes a hard look at our online culture of humiliation, and asks for a different way.

Monica Lewinsky, Ted Talk, March 2015 (<https://goo.gl/OC4WkN>).

Cette séance s'inscrit dans une séquence S4 de 8 semaines de TD sur le thème de l'éthique appliquée aux systèmes d'information. Outre la réflexion sur l'évolution des comportements sur internet et plus généralement dans notre société, l'objectif est d'amener les étudiants à s'interroger sur l'anonymat en ligne et ses conséquences.

La compréhension orale se fait sur ordinateur et les questions portant sur le document sont en ligne sur socrative.com.

La seconde partie de la séance est faite en groupes de 3 à 4 étudiants avant une mise en commun des impressions, réflexions et des idées.

Une fois la distribution des rôles pour le débat effectuée, les étudiants préparent leurs arguments avant une mise en commun par groupe de rôle. Les débats ont lieu la séance suivante en groupe de 4 étudiants.

I Compréhension orale: 45 minutes.

Watch Monica Lewinsky's Ted Talk from the beginning to 12.30 min and answer the questions on socrative.

1. How old was Monica Lewinsky in 1998?

A.14 B.22 **C.24** D.27 E.40 F.41

"At the age of 22, I fell in love with [...], and at the age of 24, I learned the devastating consequences."

2. What happened to her when she was 22?

A. She fell in love with the most powerful man in the world.

B. She didn't make any mistake.

C She wrote a rap song.

"So like me, at 22, a few of you may have also taken wrong turns and fallen in love with the wrong person, maybe even your boss. Unlike me, though, your boss probably wasn't the president of the United States of America."

3. How did her story break?

A. On TV

B. On the radio

C. In a newspaper

D. On facebook

E. On the internet

"When the story broke in January 1998, it broke online"

Congrès APLIUT 2019

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4. Because of the internet coverage of her affair...

- A. She became a regular guest at Ed Sullivan's Late Show
- B. She wrote a book and became a millionaire
- C. She suffered disgrace and opprobrium on a global scale**
- D. none of the above

"I was patient zero of losing a personal reputation on a global scale almost instantaneously"

5. When the story broke, people...

- A. Threw stones at her
- B. emailed jokes about her**
- C. Commented her story on Facebook

"It was before social media, but people could still comment online, email stories, and, of course, email cruel jokes"

6. In 1998, Monica Lewinsky lost...

- A. her keys
- B. her job
- C. most of her life
- D. her honour**
- F. her reputation**
- G. her dignity**
- H. none of the above

"In 1998, I lost my reputation and my dignity. I lost almost everything, and I almost lost my life"

7. In September 1998, she...

- A. Spent 20 hours in a windowless office room with the President
- B. had a 20 hour phone conversation with a friend
- C. Listened to 20 hours of recorded phone conversations**

"I [had] been legally required to personally authenticate all 20 hours of taped conversation"

8. How did she feel once the conversations were released?

- A. Humiliated**
- B. Relieved
- C. Horrified

"The public humiliation was excruciating. Life was almost unbearable."

9. Who was Tyler Clementi?

- A. A first year student from Rutgers University
- B. A sweet, sensitive and creative freshman from Rutgers University
- C. An 18-year-old gay student from Rutgers University

10. Tyler Clementi was webcammed by his roommate while being intimate with another man. What happened next?

- A. He committed suicide
- B. He pushed his roommate off George Washington Bridge
- C. None of the above

"Tyler jumped from the George Washington Bridge to his death. He was 18."

11. Recent studies on cyberbullying have shown that...

- A. There are more and more victims of cyberbullying
- B. Victims of cyberbullying tend to get younger
- C. Humiliation is a stronger emotion than happiness
- D. Cyberbullies feel more intense emotions

"From 2012 to 2013, there was an 87 percent increase in calls and emails related to cyberbullying [...] And you know what shocked me, although it shouldn't have, was other research last year that determined humiliation was a more intensely felt emotion than either happiness or even anger."

II In groups, discuss the following questions (30 minutes):

- Why is there more and more cyberbullying / online harassment? Can you think of recent examples?
- Define and rate the following according to how devastating you think they can be. Justify.

Cyberbullying a kid at school

Slut-shaming your ex-girlfriend

Sexting and reposting

- What could be done to stop propagating rumours and other intimate news over the internet? To stop cyberbullying?

III Debate (30 minutes): Choose your role, form groups and prepare your arguments.

Donald Trump's youngest son is being bullied both at school and on the internet.

President Trump's administration has decided to pass a bill banning online anonymity and forcing American citizens to buy a cyber-passport and prove their identity when creating accounts on social networks or email providers.

- **Role A: You're a government representative.**

You believe online anonymity should be banned and everyone should be held responsible for their actions and opinions online as well as offline.

- **Role B: You're a journalist at the Washington Post.**

You believe some categories should be allowed to remain anonymous online. Journalists have to protect their sources and whistle blowers could not alert people otherwise.

- **Role C: You're a Child Line representative.**

You defend victims of cyber bullying and not only do you believe that online anonymity should be banned, but you also consider that social networks should be prohibited to under 21s.

- **Role D: You're a hacker.**

You believe anonymity is a right but the administration should hire an army of hackers to track abusers and publicly shame them on your Facebook page.

The government representative will preside over the meeting.