

RERIGHTS.ORG – Educator’s Pack (V. 4)

RErights.org is an international project including researchers from Australia, the United States, and the United Nations exploring digital technology and young people’s rights. We’re asking young people around the world about their experiences of digital technology, and for their opinions and ideas about how the digital age is affecting young people’s rights. We will use the information that young people provide to understand the impacts digital technologies have on human rights, and are committed to sharing those ideas with the international community, including with groups who make decisions that influence the ways that we think about rights, and the laws that countries make to protect rights.

What is involved in taking part?

Young people can participate in RErights.org either individually or as a group. This information pack provides a guide to taking part as a group. For example, if you’re a teacher or educator whose class would like to participate cooperatively on the site participation can be incorporated into your group’s regular classwork, organised as a special project in class, or undertaken as an afterschool activity. There’s flexibility for you and your group to decide what best suits you.

This pack covers the six main steps involved in taking part on RErights.org:

1. Preparing: reviewing RErights.org with your group
2. Signing Up: becoming a RErights agent
3. Participating: completing Operations and Missions
4. Sharing: uploading content created by your group
5. Interacting: viewing and commenting on RErights content
6. Adapting: using RErights content for your own projects

If you’d like to run workshops with young people to engage them in the RErights platform, please email the research team at reights@westernsydney.edu.au and we will provide you with a workshop toolkit.

Before you start, remember:

- RErights.org is designed for teenagers aged between 12 and 18. People younger than 12 can join but they may find it easier to participate as part of a group (people aged between 12 and 18 can also take part as a group if they prefer to)
- People older than 18 can’t submit content unless they are doing so on behalf of a group of under-18s
- To view and upload content RErights members will need access to the internet via a computer, tablet, or mobile phone

Preparing: reviewing RErights.org with your group

Before you sign up and start taking part in the community it will be useful to go over the information on RErights.org with your group. REright.org has information that can help explain why rights are important, and how our website might help young people to think about and understand their rights in the digital age.

A good place to start is by clicking on the [“What is RErights”](#) button at the top of our site’s homepage. From there you’ll be able to access other pages that tell you about the RErights team, how our site works, etc.

RErights.org is based around a series of “operations” and “missions”. Operations are activities that RErights members take part in. Every operation includes a few short missions and focuses on a different topic related to your rights. Some missions are time limited (so, they have to be completed before a specific date) while others are open and can be completed at any time. If a mission has a time limit it will always be clearly described in the mission introduction.

RErights.org has a number of resources that young people might find useful as they think about and work through operations and missions. For example, there are links to information about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as to material and tools about creating and sharing content online.

Tip – talk to your group about RErights.org, and get their ideas about why it might be interesting and fun for them to take part in the RErights community.

Once your group understands what RErights.org is about you can move on to the next step – signing up.

Signing Up: becoming a RErights agent

Remember, young people can participate in RErights.org either individually or as a group. Individual participation is best for situations where each person taking part has easy or regular access to the internet (either at home or in a classroom), while group participation may be best where individual internet access is more limited or restricted or when a group of people prefers to undertake operations and missions cooperatively. So, when completing operations and missions an individual member creates and submits their own content whereas, when completing as a group, one person (e.g. a teacher) uploads content created by all the members of the group on everyone’s behalf.

If you’re signing up in a school and your class decides to take part cooperatively, either a teacher or a student in the class can create a group account. Young people can also take part both individually and through a group if they want to. For example, if a student is part of a group taking part cooperatively in their classroom they can also still sign up as an individual and take part in activities themselves.

To begin taking part in RErights.org, click the “Sign Up” button at the top right of the site. This will take you to the sign up form where you can choose to participate as either an individual or a group. When you sign up you become a RErights agent and a profile page is created for you on the site – both individual and group agents have profile pages. Profile pages are where agents can keep track of their progress through the operations and missions.

To sign up as a group on RErights.org:

1. Click the "Sign Up" button at the top right of the RErights homepage
2. Select the "Sign up as a group" option
3. Complete the sign up form details
4. Click the "Submit" button

Your group will be created and you can start completing operations and missions!

Tip – before you sign up ask your group how they'd like to take part. Will it be best to participate individually, or is it better to take part cooperatively to complete missions?

Participating: completing Operations and Missions

Completing operations and missions is a great way for young people to get involved in the RErights experience. Operations focus on particular themes connected to rights in the digital age; for example "Operation 2: Discovery" explores what young people think rights are. Each operation is made up of a series of missions where RErights agents undertake specific activities to learn more about an operation's theme, and share their information and experiences.

Agents complete operations and missions and share information by uploading content. Individual agents can upload their own content. However, if agents want to upload content they have created for their group, the group will have to decide how they would like to manage the upload process. For example, when completing a mission each member of a group might create a single piece of content (e.g., take a photo of a digital device). To upload using a group account, content created by individual group members will need to be combined into one file (e.g., all of the individual photos could be combined into a collage or poster) and then uploaded. We've got more information about uploading content below, where we talk about ways agents can share their information. As a reward for successfully taking part, and as a fun way to keep track of activities that have been completed, both individuals and groups earn badges for completing missions. Individual agents earn badges by completing missions by themselves and group agents earn badges by having their members cooperate to complete missions. Any badges you've earned are displayed on your profile page.

Groups can work together in a number of different ways to complete missions and earn badges. Here are some scenarios that might work for your group:

Scenario A: Each group member completes part of a mission

Assign each person in your group one mission, or part of a mission, to complete. Once everyone has completed their individual task, come together as a group and discuss the activities and how they fit together in relation to the overall theme of the operations. Each member could talk about how they completed their own task and about how they might have undertaken the tasks that others in their group completed. Record the activities your group members took part in. Your group

could make posters describing their activities and the information they collected or created, they could write brief stories describing what they learned about rights, or they could create digital content about their participation (e.g. a short movie, digital photos, or an audio recording). Encourage your group to think about other ways that they could explore the mission's theme – could they look online for more information or are there people they could talk to who are experts in the area. You could also get your group to think about how other agents around the world might be taking part in missions; for example, do people in different countries access the internet in the same ways and how might this affect the ways they participate?

Scenario B: Each group member completes every mission

Another way of taking part as a group is to have all group members complete all missions individually and discuss their experiences as the group works through the activities. As they work through missions, members of your group can compare their individual experiences (e.g. what answers did they all come up with, how did they go about finding out information). While undertaking missions, group members will be researching, creating, and recording their own information and content. Your group could meet regularly to compare and discuss the information and content they have discovered and created. Talk about the different types of content that is available, both online and offline, and have your group brainstorm ideas about other ways to find and create relevant content. Explore ways that the content created by your group members could be combined (e.g. your group could make posters or infographics with the information they've collected, or make a short film that describes and displays their combined content).

Scenario C: Group members complete missions cooperatively

A third way that your group could take part is to undertake missions cooperatively. Before you begin a mission review it with your group and think about the best way members could complete the mission together. For example, your group might be able to come up with information or content by brainstorming the mission's activities. Where missions require agents to talk to other people (e.g. a trusted adult), or research or create information the group could decide which members complete which activities. Your group could also decide to break into smaller groups to complete missions – for example, group members could pair up to conduct interviews, or research and discuss information online in smaller groups before reporting their findings back to the larger group. Each smaller group could create their own posters, presentations, or stories to share with the class, and then the class as a whole could work to combine everyone's ideas and findings.

Scenario D: Group members complete some missions cooperatively and others individually

If you decide to create a group account for your whole class and have your students create their own individual accounts your class can mix the way they complete activities. For example, your class might decide they'd like to complete some missions as individuals and others as a group. Where people complete missions as individual agents they could report back to the group on findings and compare their individual experiences of participation. Where the group completes

missions cooperatively, the group could discuss the differences between taking part individually compared to cooperatively (e.g. you could ask – Is it easier to take part by yourself or with others? Does taking part as group change the way you think about rights? How easy or difficult is it to enact your rights in group work? And what do you need to do to balance your rights with the rights of others when working together? etc). As your class works through the activities individually and as a group, you could have them discuss and record their findings and experiences through presentations, posters, stories, digital media, etc.

We've outlined a few different scenarios here, but it's important to remember that groups of young people can take part in RErights.org in any number of ways – you can use one of our scenarios to guide your own group's participation, or you can combine elements from different scenarios, or your group might come up with their own way to take part; feel free to experiment!

However you decide to take part, having your group record and talk about their activities will greatly enhance the value of their experience. We've designed RErights.org as a way for young people to learn, explore, and generate ideas about their rights in a digital age. Talking about and sharing those ideas are key steps in that process, and we talk about those important steps in the next sections.

Tip – young people can participate in and talk about RErights.org in groups, as individuals, or as a combination of the two. Different ways of participating will suit different groups and so you can, and should, figure out what suits your group best.

Sharing: uploading content created by your group

As group or individual agents begin to work through operations and missions they will start to generate content in response to specific activities. For example, agents might be asked to photograph their technology use, or document their ideas about rights, or record an interview about online technologies. Groups will also create collaborative content based on material provided by members. So, groups might create infographics or collages from information collected collaboratively, or record members talking about their experiences with technology, or film a brainstorming session about rights in the digital age.

One of our aims at RErights.org is to encourage young people around the world to share their experiences and ideas about rights in the digital age so their voices can be heard by the people and organisations who play a part in making decisions that affect them. We'd also like our members to share content because, as researchers, we're interested in finding out how young people think about rights, and exploring ways that different contexts and situations might affect young people's perceptions and ideas. Finally, sharing content on RErights.org is important because it's how our agents complete operations and missions so they can earn badges!

To share their content agents must upload it through RErights.org. Uploading requires access to the internet. When working through a mission your group will be able to upload

content while the mission remains open (remember, some missions must be completed before a certain date).

We've designed RErights.org so that (hopefully) it's easy for both group and individual agents to upload content. However, when an agent uploads information on RErights.org it isn't automatically shared with the rest of the community. The RErights team will manage any content uploaded by agents, and will combine content to create infographics, videos, collages or news items to display on RErights.org. We do this to make sure the content on our site is relevant and safe, and to provide a way for our community to access content easily and efficiently.

There are different ways of uploading depending on the type of content that agents create. For example, in many of the missions agents will be asked to enter information directly into a form on a web page. The forms on RErights.org work just like any other web form, and you and your group can decide how you'd like to complete them. So, if you're all uploading content cooperatively as a group agent you could decide together what answers they'd like to give and then have the group leader enter them in the form. On the other hand, you might complete some missions individually and some as a group. In that case, individual agents can complete some forms using their own accounts and others cooperatively using your group account.

The other type of information that agents will upload is content that they've created on another device or in another medium, such as a drawing, a movie, or a photograph. For example, group members might draw posters presenting their ideas about rights and then photograph or scan them so that they can be uploaded. Where a mission requires any of these types of content you'll be given specific instructions about how to upload. As with our web forms, we will leave it up to you and your group to decide how you'd like to create your content. So, individual group members might each make a poster or take a photo that you later combine into a single collage, or you might have the group as whole work on a poster or film cooperatively.

Tip – once your group has created their content follow the instructions provided in each mission to upload to RErights.org. You can upload content at any time while a mission is still open.

Interacting: viewing and commenting on RErights content

One of our goals is to start a discussion about rights in the digital age between young people, and one way to do this is by having young people respond to and exchange their views about the content on RErights.org. So, as well as creating and sharing their own content, RErights agents can look at and respond to content created by other agents, and anyone around the world looking at RErights.org can also let us know what they think.

Comments are available on RErights.org in two places – under "[RErights News](#)" and under "[Debrief](#)". RErights News contains updates from the RErights team about the site's latest information and activities, and Debrief shows the latest content that has been submitted by our agents and packaged by our team. You can comment using the same process in both

places: click on the heading of the post you want to comment on and then add a new comment or reply to an existing comment at the bottom of the page.

If you're logged in as an individual or group agent your comment will be labelled with the username you chose when you first signed up. People who aren't members of RErights.org can also make comments and when they do so their comments will appear under their name.

We encourage comments from group and individual agents, as well as from people who aren't RErights members. One way to make comments as a group agent is for your group to look at, discuss the content on the site, decide collectively what they'd like to say, and then post a single comment using the group agent account. Members of your group could also have a variety of different opinions about content and so you could post multiple comments as a group agent.

If members of your group have their own individual agent accounts you might like to encourage them to use those accounts to post comments. Alternatively, if group members don't have their own accounts but they'd like to comment they can still do so without logging in.

Please remind your group that comments appear as soon as they are submitted so it's important that any comments are respectful of others. The [RErights community guidelines](#) have some useful suggestions about interacting on our site. If you or your group see a comment that you think is inappropriate, you can report it to us using the "Report comment" button.

Tip – comments are a great way to get young people thinking about the information and opinions on RErights.org, and about the idea of rights in the digital age. Encourage members of your group to read and respond to the content and comments from other agents around the world. And, if you have the chance, make time for them to discuss the ideas they are encountering on the site with one another.

Adapting: using RErights content for your own projects

The RErights team will try to make the information and content shared by our agents as easy to access as possible. We encourage both individual and group agents to look at our content, share it, download it, and use it in their own projects (and that includes content created by our agents as well as the other content on our site like our explanations and FAQs).

Nearly all of the content on RErights.org is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International](#) license (if content has another license it will be clearly marked). This means that RErights content, including materials that we create from responses and uploads made by our agents, can be shared by other people as long as they do not earn money from it, and as long as they acknowledge that it was created by the RErights community. You can find out more about how young people's information and content will be used in [the RErights FAQs](#).

We hope that you and your group will use and adapt the content on our site to learn more about young people's rights and the impacts of digital technologies. There are a number of ways that our content could be used. For example, you could use RErights.org as a source of information if you're teaching your class about rights in the digital age. So, your class might download content from our site and use it to create a collaborative presentation about rights in the digital age. Or you could ask your class to look at our site individually and to pick one aspect of rights in the digital age they're particularly interested in. Individual class members could then use our content to research and create a poster or presentation exploring that issue. If you're talking to a class about rights in the digital age, or rights in general, you can download content from our site and present it offline to explain and stimulate discussion about rights.

Our site also has links to a number of other resources and websites that groups or classes might find useful. For example, our "[Your Rights](#)" page has links to both official and simple versions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and from our "[Useful Links](#)" page young people can access resources where they can find creative commons content or open access creation tools.

As well as using our content in their projects and presentations, we want RErights.org to inspire young people to experiment with, create, and share their own content about rights in the digital age. The resources we've provided on creative commons and creation tools can help them do this, but we also hope that young people will adapt and extend our content for other people to look at. For example, there might be a specific idea or piece of content on RErights.org that your class finds particularly interesting or appealing. Encourage your class to take that content and change, adapt, and add to it, and then share it with other people - either by posting it on RErights.org, contacting the RErights team to tell us about it, or by sharing it through their own personal social networks.

Remember though, while we really want our content to be used and adapted, we also want young people to be aware of and understand how important it is to acknowledge where the materials they're using have come from, and the work that other people have done creating those materials. We think one of the rights that's important in the digital age is the right to be correctly acknowledged for your work - the creative commons license we use for RErights.org provides a way for that to happen for the content on our site. Please talk to your group about creative commons licenses and why they're important - some of the resources on our site will help your class understand these issues.

Tip – encourage members of your group to download and adapt RErights content, but talk to them about the creative commons license and why it's important to properly acknowledge work done by other people.

We hope that you've found this Educators' Pack informative and helpful, and that it's given you and your group a few ideas about how you can participate in RErights.org and use the

content on our site to explore and understand more about rights in the digital age. We'd love to hear any comments or suggestions you have about the pack, or how you're using RErights to work with groups of young people. To get in touch email us at: rerights@westernsydney.edu.au

www.RErights.org