

My name is Kelly Hayes and I am from South Orange, NJ. I am a Freshman Psychology Major.

Now that we are aware of this sexting phenomenon, variously termed "trend du jour," "digital disease," "the adolescent mating call," and "techno-sex", we need to have some sort of educational outreach to teens and parents.

In addition to proposing an anonymous reporting mechanism, we suggest distribution of sexting awareness pamphlets that we developed to teens and parents. Teen awareness pamphlets could be distributed in health classes; parent awareness pamphlets are mailed home. Information from both pamphlets could be incorporated into student handbooks throughout the state. Connecticut could become the model for the rest of the country.

Teen awareness pamphlets will contain the following information...

- What is sexting?
  - According to [athinline.org](http://athinline.org), "sexting is sending or forwarding nude, sexually suggestive, or explicit pictures on your cell or online."
- Nancy Willard, M.S., J.D. of *The Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use* states in her research that for many teens sexting is "initiated in response to 'pressure.'"
- According to the Institute for Responsible Online and Cell-Phone Communication, there are seminars and events in your area to promote safe cyber usage and sexting awareness. Get involved. There is a sexting awareness event and concert on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March at Newton High School.
- According to the National Crime Prevention Council, "Remember that healthy relationships should be based on mutual respect, not just sexual attraction."
- Sexting awareness tips from [nationalcampaign.org](http://nationalcampaign.org) and [netsmartz.org](http://netsmartz.org).

Parent awareness pamphlets will contain the following information...

- According to [athinline.org](http://athinline.org), 3 in 10 young people have been involved in sexting.
- Top 20 Texting and Internet Acronyms from [netlingo.com](http://netlingo.com)
- Sexting is not gender specific.
  - According to Susan Lipkins, Ph.D. 65.5% of her sample of teens, ages 13-19 year olds, sexted. Within this sample, 63.6% of teen females sexted and 72.7% of teen males sexted.
- sexting awareness tips from [thenationalcampaign.org](http://thenationalcampaign.org)

We'd like to present you with a prototype of these pamphlets.

## References

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