

**Workshop 5: Wired for Trouble****Extended Project**  
**Advice Column**

*Some new twists on some old problems.*

**Project:** Create a cyber-advice column to help teens deal with technology abuse. In small groups, write letters asking for advice, and write responses.

**Procedure**

1. **Look at real-life advice columns.** Bring in examples of advice columns from newspapers or magazines. Discuss the features of a column, such as the title and the names of the columnists and letter writers.

Choose a title for your cyber-advice column. Make up a name for the imaginary columnist.

2. **List ideas.** With your group, brainstorm problems that can arise when teens abuse technology. Here are some ideas to get you started:
  - cyberbullying
  - using camera phones to sneak photos
  - becoming addicted to email

Add a few ideas of your own.

3. **Select a problem.** Have each member of your group choose a different problem. Discuss the problems together. Help everyone imagine a specific situation where a person is a victim of technology.
4. **Write a letter. Answer a letter.** First, write a short letter to your cyber-advice columnist. Describe the problem. Then pick a letter that someone else in your group wrote, and write a response. Write the letters and replies on the computer, if possible. Print a copy of each.
5. **Present the column.** Write the title of your column on a large sheet of posterboard. Paste each letter, followed by its reply, below the title. Display the column in your classroom.