



Guidelines for Student Forums

The Student Chat Forums are an important part of the ePals Global Community. The forums are a place that you can visit to chat with students from around the world about things like sports, entertainment and books. You can find out what others think about world issues, ask research questions or share a story or poem that you have written. It's a great place to spend some time sharing your ideas and learning about other students from around the world.

But, be aware that you are posting in a **public** forum. That means that anyone with an internet connection can see it. For that reason there are some things that you should know and keep in mind as you post in a forum. Here are some basic guidelines for using the Student Chat Forums on ePals:

- All messages are moderated by a person before being posted to the forums. Your message will not immediately appear on the site. Please allow at least 24 hours for your message to appear on the forums.
- For your safety and security, no personal information is allowed in messages. This includes your email address, last name and age.
- Be polite. No name-calling or rude remarks. It's okay to disagree with someone's point of view but do so thoughtfully and respectfully.
- Use appropriate language, the same kind that you would use at school. We won't post a message that has profanity, abusive language, anything promoting hate or violence, or that is sexually explicit.
- Look for existing topics to reply to before starting a new topic thread and start a topic thread in the correct forum. For example, don't start a new topic "What's your favorite sport?" in the Current Events/Global Issues forum. It will be deleted by a moderator because it belongs in the Sports forum. Check to see if the topic was started in Sports and then add your comments there.
- All messages should have at least two complete sentences with correct spelling, capitalization and punctuation. Part of our goal at ePals is to model good writing for those who speak English as a second language.

Take a look through the different Student Chat Forums on ePals and see what interests you. There's something there for everyone—from Arts and Entertainment to Culture to Technology. Get started chatting on the forums and get connected to students around the world!