

Rule people we
happen to be
interacting with.



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Rule No. 3 is ' Know where you are in cyber space'. By this, Shea means that one should employ discretion in online interactions by adjusting our responses or behavior according to the kind of people we happen to be interacting with. When one enters a new domain in cyberspace, one should take some time to look around and listen to the chat or read archives to get a feel of the people who are already there.

Once we feel comfortable enough to participate we can reveal our presence. Rule No. 5 is ' Respect other people's time and bandwidth'. Nowadays people have less time than before so we should not waste it needlessly by sending them emails and posts that they may not be interested in.

It is rude to copy people on one's messages unthinkingly. Shea's sixth rule exhorts us to make ourselves look good online. She doesn't mean makeup and wardrobe but the quality of our writing. That is, we should pay attention to grammar and spelling. Also, we should be polite. Rule No. 7 says, ' Share expert knowledge'.

When we post a question to a discussion group we may get many responses from experts. We could summarize the answers and post it to the discussion group so that it benefits everyone. The eighth rule requests netizens to ' Help control flame wars'. Flame wars refer to a series of angry letters between two or three people.

As they can ruin the friendly atmosphere of a discussion group, good netizens should try to douse such flame wars and restore peace. Rule No. 8 asks us to respect other people's privacy by not reading their emails. Rule

No. 9 is, ' Don't abuse your power'. In cyberspace too some people have more power.

They may be experts in an office or system administrators. Such people should not take advantage of their power. The tenth rule says that we should forgive other people's mistakes. If someone makes a mistake or asks a dumb question, be tolerant or point it out politely.

These rules underscore the fact that cyberspace is not a lawless territory where one can do anything. It comes with its own code of behavior and netizens have a responsibility to uphold it.