If you ask ten different educators, "What is digital citizenship?" chances are you will get ten different answers! According to Digital Citizenship.net and others, this often ambiguous concept embraces wide subjects such as ethics, rules, choices, personalization, safety, Christian discipleship, literacy and much more. For me, digital citizenship is a conversation with technology users about how to utilize tools in a way that is safe, encouraging, and in the spirit of learners' values.

This view has been heavily influenced by Michelle Green, a blogger and technology integrator for a school district in Indiana. She conducted very influential research which is summarized in her Final Report. My biggest takeaway from Mrs. Green is that educators need to reevaluate the traditional view many teachers have of their classroom, namely that of control above all. To this end she states that digital citizenship is much more than a set of rules. It should be about how TO use technology well, not just about how NOT to use technology. After subscribing to her blog, I look forward to reading more of her views.

Two examples of promoting and modeling digital citizenship, though different in nature, have the same goal of encouraging digital citizenship by example. The first example is an assignment I do with my world history students in which they are required to list the sources for images they find to complete an assignment. This promotes digital citizenship by teaching the students to respect the intellectual and technological property of another. Secondly, I do not "friend" students on facebook. This is an example of digital citizenship because it shows the students that boundaries in the digital world are good things.