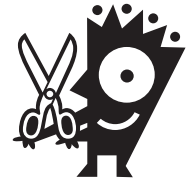


SAMPLE

Everyday Dilemmas

Not all of these dilemmas are appropriate for every setting. Please select the dilemmas from this sampling that best fit your situation and student audience. If these do not resonate with the kids with whom you work, identify dilemmas that do and create your own. Copy and cut so that each group can receive a slip of paper with one dilemma on it.



----- ✂

While you are playing soccer on the field during recess, another group confronts your group, insisting that they want to play football on this field and that you have to stop playing soccer. Rules on the field say that when this situation arises, the two teams are supposed to split the field to share the space, even if it means groups have to play within half the normal size. You explain this to the captain of the other group, but that kid won't listen. "We *always* play football here," he says. You don't really want to go right to the playground monitor because she always says if there are problems, then the field is off-limits. What do you do?

----- ✂

At a sleepover with your best friend, his parents are having guests over. Once the guests leave, a few half-full beers are left around. Your friend picks one up, smiles, and takes a sip, before offering the can to you. Your parents are at a late movie, so you are hesitant to call them. What do you do?

----- ✂

Your older sister sneaks out regularly to meet up with her friends. You've always kept the secret for her. One night, when your mom finds your sister gone, she starts asking you what you know. Most of the time, this night included, you don't really know where your sister goes, who she's with, or what she does. You are really close to your sister and you don't want to betray her. What do you do?


----- ✂

You've played on the same competitive sports team for four years. A new member joins the team and is getting all the attention. She's a good athlete, but she brags a lot. On the field, she never passes, makes fun of other team members, and talks back to the referees. The coach cheers her on because points count toward wins, except your team is starting to lose more games than ever, despite the new member's scoring ability. Other team members are skipping practices or messing around on the field and hogging the ball as well, just to get attention. What do you do?


----- ✂

SAMPLE


Everyday Dilemmas (continued)

----- 

To complete a project for school, you are required to partner with two other people in your class. You think carefully before choosing your group, and for a while you are happy with how well your group is doing. On the day it is due, you realize that the person responsible for the essay completely plagiarized the material from the Internet by cutting and pasting from different websites. He changed a handful of words from the original articles, but nothing is written in his own words. You will all be penalized if this assignment is not turned in on time. What do you do?


----- 

While visiting at the middle school you really hope to attend, you ask questions about how much homework is assigned and how well teachers get to know the students. The student leader you're with admits that she has cheated her way through a semester of algebra without ever getting caught. In fact, she says, some days the teacher has them do all of their work in small groups or on the computer, so he doesn't even know who is doing the work being turned in. This school is also your family's first choice pick for you. You are anxious and upset when your dad comes to pick you up. What do you do?

----- 

Once a month for two years, you have gone to a youth group with friends. It is one of your favorite things to do. During the most recent meeting, one of the older kids with whom you've really bonded grabs your shirt and tries hugging you in an inappropriate way. After pushing him away, he says that if you tell anyone what just happened, he will be kicked out of the group and get into lots of trouble with his family. If you stop going to the group, your friends will definitely notice. What do you do?

(What if the inappropriate hug came in a different setting from someone else—for example, a coach, your parent's friend, a babysitter, an aunt or uncle, a cousin, a best friend's sister or brother?)

----- 

You discover that a friend has been chatting online with someone she doesn't really know. This person says he's 14, attends the local high school, and is a friend of a friend. His profile includes a picture of a comic strip character, not a real person's face. You try to look him up in your brother's yearbook, but no one by that name is listed. When your friend IMs the boy with this fact, he tells her that he just moved to town this year. Your friend confides to you that she trusts him and plans to meet him at a nearby mall. You are really nervous that the person isn't really a kid. But if you tell an adult or ask your brother to find out, your friend may never talk to you again. What do you do?

----- 