

understanding consent & power dynamics

Name _____ Class Period _____

Read the following scenarios, keeping an eye out for the 6 Building Blocks of Consent:

1. Appropriate Age
2. Equal Power
3. Enthusiastic "Yes!"
4. Freely Given
5. Understood
6. Reversible

Scenario 1:

Alix just got her first job at a pizza place; she is learning a lot and is really happy to be making her own money. Some of her coworkers that have been working there for awhile ignore her when she asks questions and seem to always give her the worst tasks. Her manager, Paul, has been really helpful and always tells her he's got her back if anyone gives her a hard time. One night Alix's coworkers leave her with a bunch of extra cleaning to do. Paul stays late to help Alix clean up and then asks if she wants to come over to his house and hang out for a while after work. Alix feels really uncomfortable, but she is grateful for his help, and worried that if she says no he won't stand up for her the next time her coworkers are messing with her.

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

Who do you think has more power in this scenario? Why?

What would you tell Alix if she told you about this experience?

Scenario 2:

Parker and Charlie have been friends for years but haven't seen each other in a while because of the pandemic. One day, Parker calls Charlie up to invite them over to play on their new PS5. Charlie has had a crush on Parker for a long time and would love to spend time together, but isn't sure if going over to Parker's house is the safest choice. Charlie responds by saying, "I don't know, maybe another time", but Parker begins to tease Charlie by laughing and saying, "Wow, do you really think that you'd catch COVID from me? I'm not even sick!" Charlie feels embarrassed and says, "okay, I'll come over for a little then..."

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

Who do you think has more power in this scenario? Why?

What would you tell Charlie if they told you about this experience? What about Parker?

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Scenario 3:

Ciera is 23 years old. She is a teacher and the girls' soccer coach at Lake High School. She has been coaching the boys' soccer team lately because the boys' coach has been out sick. Some of the girls notice that Ciera is kind of flirty with some of the guys on the team. She has also been offering a few of the boys private coaching sessions, but tells them to keep it a secret, so the girls don't get jealous. Your friend is on the boys' team and tells you privately that he hooked up with Ciera last weekend and is feeling discomfort about it.

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

Who do you think has more power in this scenario? Why?

What would you tell your friend after he shared this information with you?

Scenario 4:

Elena is a senior in high school and has been talking to Keisha, a sophomore at the same school. They've been FaceTiming and texting each other a lot since the pandemic has made it difficult for them to see each other. One night while texting, Elena asked Keisha to send her a nude photo. It made Keisha uncomfortable but she didn't want Elena to be disappointed. Keisha tried to make a joke out of it and said no nicely, but Elena responded by telling her it wasn't a big deal and that she could send it on Snapchat so it would disappear. She also said that she didn't understand what her problem was because her ex-girlfriend used to send them all the time. Feeling pressured, Keisha sent the Snap and a few minutes later got a notification that Elena had taken a screen shot.

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

Who do you think has more power in this scenario? Why?

What would you tell Keisha if she shared this with you? What about Elena?