

# 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:

Alana and Michelle are in the library, working on a report for their history class. The two aren't officially in a relationship yet but have been hanging out for a while and seem to really like each other. At the computer station, Alana starts to give Michelle a backrub, Michelle enjoys it at first but starts to get uncomfortable when she feels like other students are staring at them. Michelle shrugs her shoulders and says "Maybe later Alana." Alana responds and says, "What, you afraid we'll get in trouble?" Alana then pulls Michelle close and kisses her in front of everyone.

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

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

## 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?

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## Scenario 3:

Ethan, Stephen, and Louis are in 8th grade and are hanging out at Ethan's house on Friday night. Ethan's parents aren't home, but his older brother, Dallas, is with them and orders pizza. While eating, Dallas asks the group if they want to watch a movie and suggests a comedy; they all say yes. A few minutes in to the show Ethan realizes Dallas has actually turned on a scary movie, even though Dallas knows that scary movies terrify Ethan. Ethan tells Dallas to turn it off, but Dallas tells him to stop being so afraid and to just watch the movie.

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

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

## Scenario 4:

Evan is a freshman in high school and Ayana is in 8th grade; they have been dating for almost 3 months and text each other a lot. One night while texting, Evan asked Ayana to send him a nude photo. It made Ayana uncomfortable but she didn't want Evan to think she didn't like him. Ayana tried to make a joke out of it and said no nicely, but Evan responded by telling her it wasn't a big deal and that she could send it on Snapchat so it would disappear. He also said that he didn't understand what her problem was because his ex-girlfriend used to send them all the time. Feeling pressured, Ayana sent the Snap and a few minutes later got a notification that Evan 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?