

Greater Cincinnati Leadership and Ethics Seminar

Student Vignettes

Vignette #1

When Cheating is So Easy

This evening, Kai is studying for a calculus exam at home where Kai has spent the last three months since Kai's school was moved online due to COVID. The exam will take place online tomorrow during the class's Zoom session. The exam is 'closed-note', and Kai's teacher requests, but does not require, that students keep their cameras on during the exam.

As Kai is studying, a text message arrives from a friend saying that a few classmates are going to FaceTime during the exam so that they can share notes. A few minutes later, another friend sends a link to a website that solves complex algebra problems similar to the ones on the exam.

How do you think Kai will respond to her friends' messages? What do you think she will do during the exam?

Vignette #2

A Team in Crisis

As the coach walks out of the locker room, Jesse looks up to see utter disappoint in their teammates' eyes. Before leaving, the coach told them that two of its star players (one, the captain of the team) have been suspended for cheating and are prohibited from participating in sports for rest of the season. Just two weeks from regionals, the team may have lost their shot at the championship.

Looking around, Jesse sees looks of defeat and hears someone murmur: "Well there goes our season," and "Who even cares if they cheated?" Jesse cannot help but feel the same way.

What can Jesse do to refocus and create the best outcome for the team?

Vignette #3

Privacy and Loyalty

You have two mutual friends who are dating each other. They are both very close to you, and you knew them separately before they even knew each other. You find out that he cheated on her. It was a one-night stand, and he has not talked to the girl since it happened. He has been faithful excluding that one time.

Also, it's been a few months since it happened. You know that your friend is the type of girl that would stay with him; she would forgive him if it was only once.

Do you support his decision not to tell her, because it won't happen again, and it will only cause her unnecessary hurt? Do you stay quiet because it is none of your business and you want to stay out of it? Do you want him to tell her what happened because she deserves to know the truth? Or do you take it upon yourself to tell her, even though that may mean the end of the relationship or the end of your friendship with him?

Vignette #4

Hazards of the Group Chat

Alex, a high school junior, opens the group chat with Alex's basketball teammates where they usually banter and discuss upcoming games. Amidst the discussion, someone shares an explicit photo of another student whom Alex knows from school. Some of Alex's teammates respond to the photo with jokes and emojis.

Alex understands the severity of the situation and the potential harm caused by sharing such content. Alex also knows that bringing this to an adult may lead to repercussions for the sender or for all of Alex's friends in the chat.

How might Alex react? Should Alex's reaction change if Alex was a captain on the team?