



Greater Cincinnati Leadership and Ethics Seminar

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 disappointment 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 the 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

Safety and Respect

Anne could see it coming. Two freshmen were leaving the band room laughing together as they started up the hall. About 20 yards in front them, across the corridor leaning against some lockers were five varsity football players. The football players were loud and pushing each other around disrupting anyone trying to get to their lockers before the next bell.

As the freshman approached, one of the athletes called out to the them – Anne couldn't hear exactly what was said – and the rest of the guys started laughing. The freshman tried to ignore the remarks and walk past the raucous.

Anne knew what would happen next.

Two of the football players quickly stepped across the hall and blocked the freshmen's path. When the freshmen tried to skirt the athletes, the players knocked one's books to the ground and pushed the other smaller freshman into a water fountain where he slipped and fell.

Embarrassed and frightened, the freshmen snatched up their books and ran to class as the football players laughed and called after them.

Should Anne intervene? If so, how? Might she risk becoming a target herself?