



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 Kai's 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

Hazards of the Group Chat

You see a group of your classmates, including one of your good friends, sharing memes in a private group chat that target a new student's appearance and interests. Some of the memes are subtle and might not seem hurtful to everyone, but you know they're about the new student. When you confront your friend privately, they brush it off, saying it's "just a joke" and that the new student doesn't even know about the group chat. However, the jokes start to spread outside the group chat, and you notice the new student becoming withdrawn.

Meanwhile, your school is planning to host an anti-bullying awareness event, and your teacher asks you to speak on the importance of kindness and respect. You're unsure if you can do so without being a hypocrite, knowing you've stayed silent about the group chat.

Should you call out the group's behavior publicly or address it privately with your friend again? What are the potential consequences of each action?

How might you balance loyalty to your friends with your responsibility to stand up for others?

What does integrity look like in this situation, and how can you demonstrate leadership effectively?