

DIGITAL DILEMMAS

This resource is an adaption of new tools in development by Project Zero's Education with Digital Dilemmas Project (Carrie James & Emily Weinstein) and Common Sense Education

Your perspective

Notice your gut reaction. What do **you** think?



Their perspectives

Consider the people involved in the dilemma. What do you think each person in the dilemma is thinking and feeling?



3 options

Identify three options for how the situation could be handled.



1 way forward

Pick the option you think is best and write out the message



WHAT?

Engaging dilemmas about thorny digital topics, paired with a thinking routine - “Perspectives and Options” - designed to deepen students’ thinking, perspective taking, communication skills, and agency. Can be self-facilitated by students, or lightly facilitated by a peer, educator, or parent/caregiver.

WHERE?

Use as:

1. a discussion tool/prompt for an online class, as a full group or in small groups,
2. as a writing prompt or discussion board prompt, and/or
3. for students to use with their families for an engaging cross-generational conversation

WHO?

Middle and high school aged students and up

Dilemmas

“Social Distance”

As the coronavirus pandemic unfolded, people across the country and world were encouraged to stay at home and to practice social distancing. Although Kaden and his friends were low-key concerned about the virus, they were psyched when their school shut down for 3 weeks. On the second day school was closed, they all slept in until noon and then met up at a nearby park. They recorded a TikTok on the basketball court. In the video, they were laughing, high fiving, and sharing chinese food. The caption read: #coronacome #noschool #stayhome lol. When Tali saw the video with tons of likes and supportive comments, she was pretty surprised. She was also worried about the message Kaden - one of the most popular kids in her grade - was sending to their peers and his wider audience of teens on TikTok.

Perspectives and Options

Your perspective:

Notice your gut reaction. What do **you** think: Was it okay for Kaden to share his TikTok?

Their perspectives:

What do you think **Kaden** was thinking and feeling when he shared the TikTok?

What do you think **Tali** was thinking and feeling when she saw it?

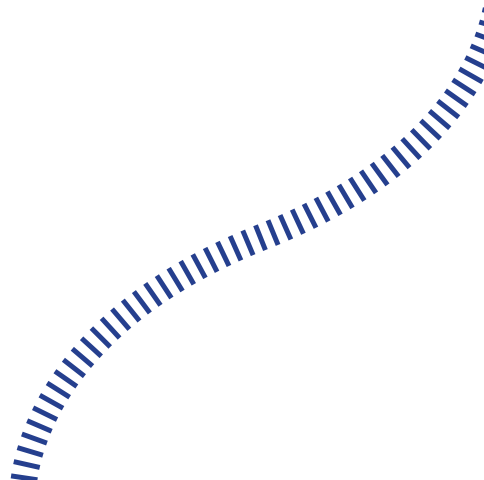
Three options:

What options does **Tali** have? Identify three options for how Tali could handle the situation.

One way forward:

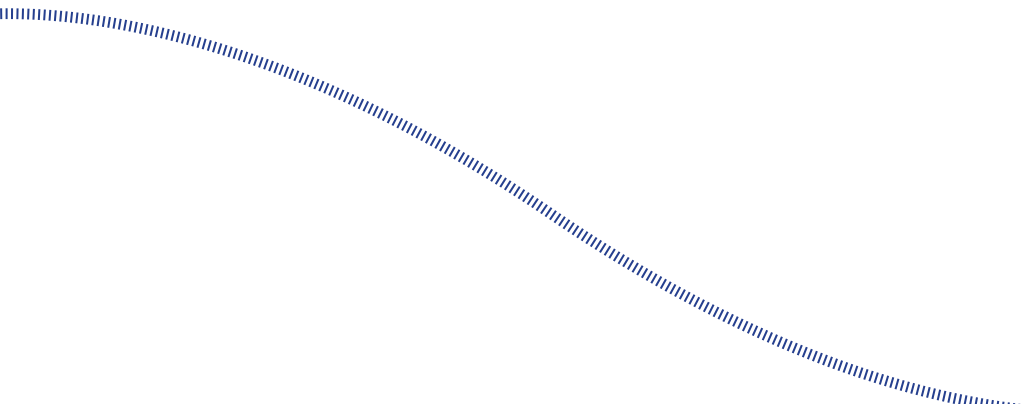
Pick the option you think is best and write out the message or conversation.

→ **Extend the discussion:** Should TikTok and other social media sites remove videos like this? Why or why not?



“Finding Boundaries”

Jayden’s classmate Tim had started texting Jayden a lot, every day. Jayden and Tim were friendly and Jason had always liked Tim. At first, Jayden was happy to be talking to Tim - especially since their school had closed and Jason was kind of bored at home. Tim was having a hard time -- Tim’s parents were fighting a lot. His life at home had been tough for a while, and it was even worse now that his whole family was stuck at home together all day. Jayden wanted to be kind and supportive and always tried to be available when Tim texted. But, the texting was becoming overwhelming for Jayden. Jayden worried about Tim and didn’t want to make Tim’s situation any worse by not being a good friend. At the same time, the texting felt burdensome and was also starting to take a toll. Jayden thought he needed to set some boundaries, but he wasn’t sure how and didn’t want to make things harder for Tim.



Perspectives and Options

Your perspective:

Notice your gut reaction. What do **you** think about the situation?

Their perspectives:

How do you think **Jayden** is feeling? What is going through his mind?

How do you think **Tim** is feeling? What is going through his mind?

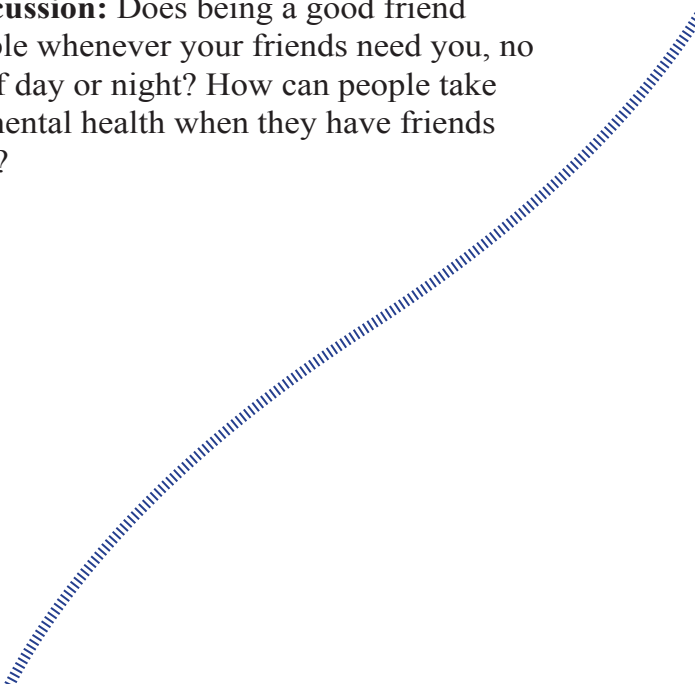
Three options:

What options does **Jayden** have? Identify three options for how **Jayden** could handle the situation.

One way forward:

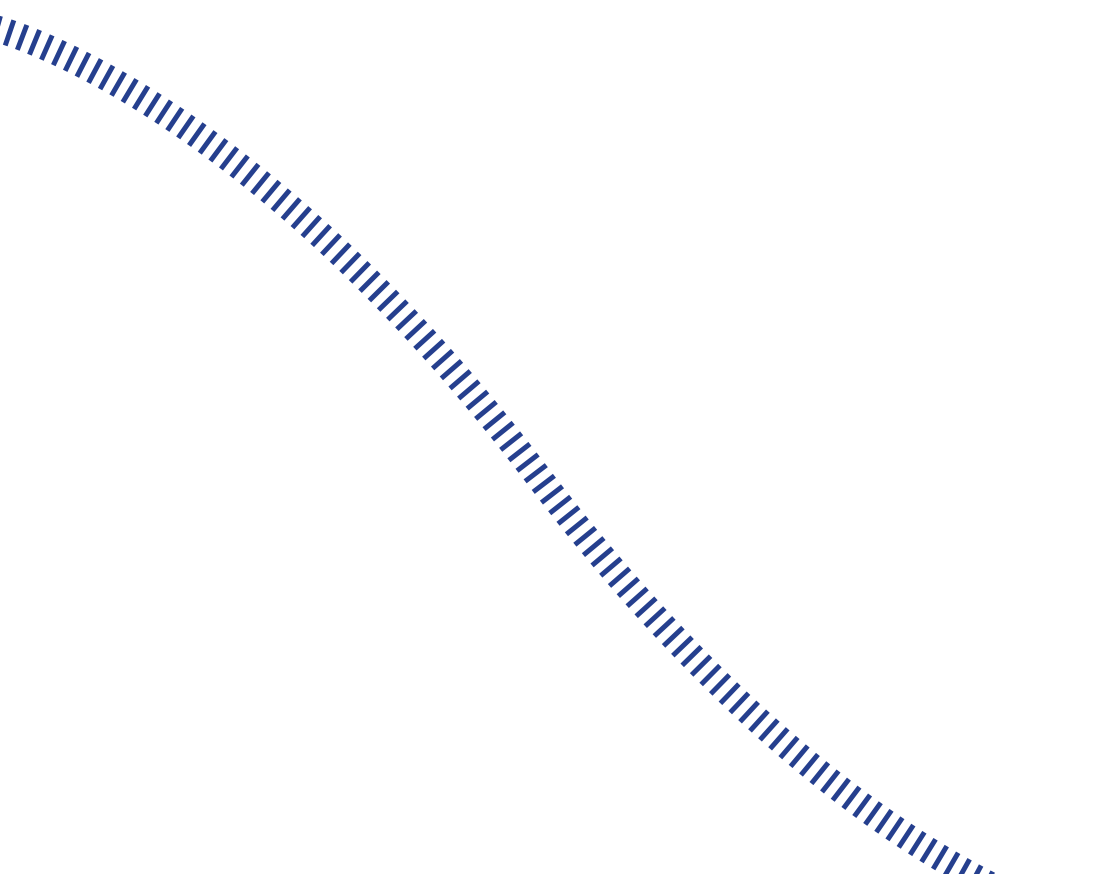
Pick the option that you think is best for both **Jayden** and **Tim**. Imagine what **Jayden** would say and write out the conversation.

→ **Extend the discussion:** Does being a good friend mean being available whenever your friends need you, no matter what time of day or night? How can people take care of their own mental health when they have friends who are struggling?



“Exposed in Group Chat”

Juan’s close friends had a group chat that they’d used for a while. Normally, their conversations were about sports, people from school, memes, and other random things. Right before the COVID-19 pandemic, his friend Marcos had started dating Sasha, who was in their grade at school. Now their school was closed and people were mostly staying home. One day, Marcos forwarded a screenshot to the chat with the caption, “Score!” Juan could tell from a quick glance at the screenshot that it was a mostly naked picture of Sasha. Juan and Sasha had been friends since elementary school. He was surprised that she sent it in the first place since that didn’t seem like something she would normally do. He also immediately felt uneasy, knowing Sasha definitely wouldn’t have wanted the picture shared.



Perspectives and Options

Your perspective:

Notice your gut reaction. What do **you** think?

Their perspectives:

What do you think was going through **Juan's** head when he saw the picture pop up on his phone?

What do you think **Sasha** will be thinking and feeling when she finds out her picture was shared?

Why do you think **Marcos** asked Sasha to send a picture in the first place? Why do you think Marcos shared the picture with his friends?

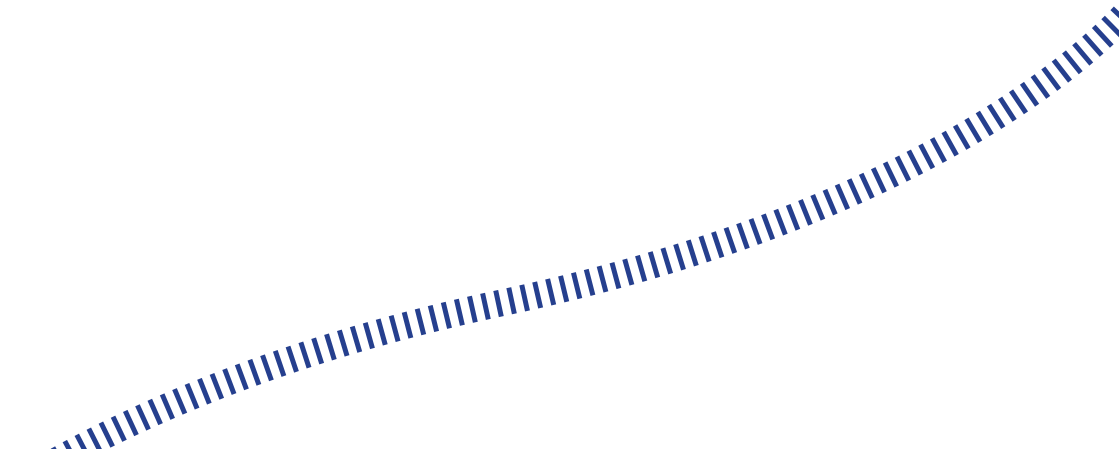
Three options:

What options does **Juan** have? Identify three options for how Juan can handle the situation.

One way forward:

Pick the option you think is best and write out the message or conversation.

→ **Extend the discussion:** Should Marcos face consequences for sharing the picture?



“Graphic Videos”

Monica was actively involved in civic issues at her high school and in her town. She was always following news media and sharing posts related to current events. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, Monica was glued to news sites and social media. With schools closed and social distancing protocols in place, social media became more important than ever for communicating with her peers. She felt a responsibility to read and post the latest headlines and in depth stories about the virus’s impacts. She came across one video documenting the toll of the virus in one city that contained graphic footage of bodies in a hospital. Monica paused to consider whether or not to share the video across her social media accounts. She wanted to use every tool she could to raise awareness and show people how bad she thought this problem had gotten. At the same time, her younger cousins and some of the campers from when she was a camp counselor all followed her on social media and would see whatever she shared. Monica watched the video again: there was no doubt that it was incredibly graphic and scary. She hit “share” and waited for people to respond.



Perspectives and Options

Your perspective:

Notice your gut reaction. What do **you** think: Was it okay for Monica to share the video? Why or why not?

Their perspectives:

What do you think **Monica** was thinking and feeling when she shared the video?

What do you think **Monica's younger campers** might be thinking and feeling when they see it?

Three options:

Imagine that you are friends with **Monica** and also a counselor at the same camp. You see the video and have to look away from the screen while it's playing. You're worried about how her younger followers will react. What are your options? Name three things you could do.

One way forward:

Pick the option you think is best.

If your option involves saying something to **Monica** or someone else (like the campers), write out what you would say.

→ **Extend the discussion:** How does this situation connect to other times when graphic videos are shared online related to civic issues (e.g., Black Lives Matter and videos of Police Violence, Videos of the violent protests, etc.). Does changing the issue change your stance? Why or why not?

