

#9263

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE: WHEN IT'S COOL TO TALK

SVE & CHURCHILL MEDIA, 2000

Grade Levels: 7-12

20 minutes

DESCRIPTION

When is it time to "rat" on a friend? To snitch? Who is the best person to confide in? Teen loyalty may prevent disclosures that can help a troubled friend. Discusses some guidelines and things for teenagers to consider when faced with the decision to tattle/snitch/rat/tell on a peer.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Health

- ★ Standard: Knows how to maintain mental and emotional health
 - Benchmark: Knows skills used to communicate effectively with family, friends, and others, and the effects of open and honest communication (See Instructional Goals #1, 2, and 3.)
- ★ Standard: Understands aspects of substance use and abuse
 - Benchmark: Recognizes high-risk substance abuse situations that pose an immediate threat to oneself or one's friends or family (e.g., drunk and drugged driving, violent arguments) as well as how and where to obtain help (See Instructional Goal #1.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To identify when to speak to someone about a friend's behavior and who to talk to.
2. To examine dilemmas teens face when a friend needs help.
3. To identify motives and long term results of getting help for a friend or peer.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. bond | 11. subtle |
| 2. loyalty | 12. objective |
| 3. motive | 13. subjective |
| 4. dilemma | 14. confidentiality |
| 5. underestimate | 15. fink on someone |
| 6. judgmental | 16. rat on someone |
| 7. beneficial | 17. violent |
| 8. potential | 18. overdose |
| 9. snitching | 19. threaten |
| 10. depression | 20. intervene |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Brainstorm secrets that friends keep. Determine in what situations you would not keep a secret.
2. Define true friendship. List qualities important to you in a friend and in being a friend.

AFTER SHOWING

► Discussion Items and Questions

1. When is it cool to talk? What is the objective line indicating when to talk about a friend's problems? What is the subjective line?
2. What are warning signs that you need to talk to someone about a friend's problems? What are the warning signs for drug addiction? Depression? Aggressive behavior?
3. What may be the short-term consequences for talking about a friend's problems?
4. What are the long term benefits of getting help for a friend? What may the long term consequences be for not talking to someone about a friend's problems?
5. Who are some people you can talk with? How can adults be a safe place for teens to talk?
6. What is true loyalty? When is it cool not to talk? How can a friend prove their loyalty? Why is your motive important when you talk to someone about a friend's problems?

► Applications and Activities

1. List possible teen problems.
 - a. Research the warning signs for each problem.
 - b. Brainstorm a list of people to contact to get help for each problem. Consider anonymous and direct sources of help.
2. Debate the following statements. Consider the consequences for following or not following the advice.
 - a. Err on the side of caution.
 - b. It takes awhile to see the true nature of a relationship.
 - c. I'm in effect throwing myself on a hand grenade for you. I'm willing to lose your friendship to see you live.
 - d. The person is more important than the relationship.
 - e. Friendships can be rebuilt.
3. Write dialogue between one teen confronting a friend about a problem. Consider the emotions of each person. Include loyalty, trust, and needing to get help.
4. Write an essay defining the difference between snitching to an adult and talking to an adult. Use examples from personal experience.

RELATED RESOURCES



- [It's Not My Fault: A Program About Conflict Resolution #3051](#)
- [Win - Win #3683](#)
- [Coping Skills #7705](#)

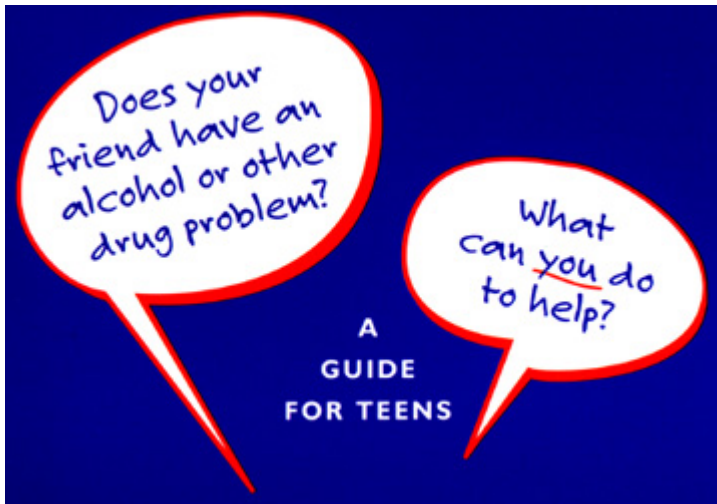


World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **ALCOHOL AND DRUG INFORMATION**

<http://www.health.org/govpubs/phd688/>



A Guide for Teens: what do to if your friend has an alcohol or drug problem. This publication is part of a larger site on preventing abuse of drugs and alcohol provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- **TEEN EDUCATION AND CRISIS HOTLINE**

<http://www.teachhotline.org/>

Specific advice for what a teen can do if a friend is suicidal.



- **YELLOW RIBBON SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

<http://www.yellowribbon.org/>

Primarily a collection of links for teens, for parents, and for suicide survivors.