

What Should You Do?

Please write your responses to each question in the space provided. Keep in mind there are no wrong answers. Please think carefully about the questions and share your own opinion.

SCENARIO 1

Samira and her best friend Yonah just had a huge fight. Afterwards, Samira shared a really mean post about Yonah on social media. Later that night, Yonah texts her and they forgive each other, but her post is still online.



What could happen? _____



What should Samira do? What should Yonah do?

Some examples include: Someone could see the post and report Samira for bullying or misinterpret her and Yonah's relationship and feelings towards each other. Yonah might still perceive the post to be rude. It is probably a good idea for Samira to remove her post.



Can you think of a real-life example of this situation?

Students should reflect on examples they have encountered or heard of in the past. Bear in mind that sharing these real-life examples might be uncomfortable for students. Let them share examples of friends or people they know (vs. themselves).

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SCENARIO 2

Hiwot took photos of some of her friends acting silly and posted them on social media, with hashtags that could sound rude or mean, but were actually inside jokes with his friends. The next day, Nyawira, another friend, came up to her at school and said that she thought that the hashtags were really hurtful and kind of sexist (i.e. prejudice or discrimination based on sex, especially discrimination against women).



What could happen? _____



What should Hiwot do? What else could Nyawira do?

Hiwot should apologize or explain herself. Students should consider how their actions may be perceived differently than they were intended, but that does not mean others' perceptions are invalid.



What if Nyawira had confronted Hiwot online instead of in person?

If Nyawira had confronted Hiwot on the public post, others would be able to weigh in on the issue and explain the inside joke or why the statement was offensive. It may be resolved or it may become a larger dispute amongst many other people. If Nyawira contacted Hiwot via an online message, then Hiwot would be able to discuss it with her in the aftermath and edit her post if she was convinced it was inappropriate.

SCENARIO 3

Abigail was on social media when she discovered that Selam, a boy at school, had taken a photo of her and written, "Haha #whatnottowear" (making fun of her clothes). Of course, Abigail was really upset.



What could happen? _____



What should Selam do? What should Abigail do?

Abigail should confront Selam about his actions to let him know that they were hurtful. Abigail can also report Selam's actions to the social media platform and an adult (e.g. parent/guardian, teacher, or school administrator).

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