



Topic: Peer Pressure; Maintaining Personal Convictions

Key Question:

Can personal convictions be maintained in the school culture?

This scenario was contributed by Cherie Venable.

Scenario:

Johnny was invited to attend a party over the weekend. He knew that this party would include beer, marijuana, and possible sex. Johnny, not wanting to be involved in these activities, made up an excuse that he would be “out of town.” However, on a beer run to town, one of Johnny’s classmates saw him.

Monday, during class exchanges, Johnny was assailed with comments of “wimp, mommy’s boy, Mr. Clean,” etc. Sam, one of Johnny’s friends, has informed him that unless he attends the next party, like “a real man”, he will no longer be part of the “group.” It has been a week and half and the harassment is escalating.

Discussion questions:

1. What are personal convictions?
2. What are possible consequences that one might face in standing up for those convictions?
3. What outside sources are available to help you maintain your personal convictions?
4. If Johnny gives in to peer pressure what kind of support does he need to get through the event and to later regain self respect?
5. Are there ways to stop the harassment in the hallways?

Correlated TEKS:

ELPS: 1A, 2H, 2I, 3G, 3H, 5F, 5G

ELAR: 14C, 18B, 19C, 25B, 25A, 18C, 23B

CCRS, E/LAS IV Listening A,

Cognitive Skills B. Reasoning 1 & 2

Problem Solving I.C. 1 & 2

Academic Integrity F. 3 & 4

Health 2C, 2E, 5C, 5H, 5K, 5L, 6A, 7A, 7B, 10A, 10B, 10D, 10E, 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D, 11F, 12D, 12E

Social Studies (7th grade) 23A, 23B and Social Studies (8th grade) 20C, 20D, 20F, 21B