



## Topic: Relationships - Family

### Key Question:

**Can emotional pain cause thoughts of suicide,  
or cause someone to use self-abuse?**

This scenario was contributed by the teachers comprising the DtWTX Educational Advisory Committee at the 2012 Do the Write Thing Texas Leadership Summit.

### Scenario:

Mary, a diligent, quiet girl, has been very depressed lately. She has isolated herself. No one seems to be able to reach her. Her counselor tries to help her; however, Mary rejects the counselor. Mary has done her best to be a top, high achieving student, but her father constantly puts her down by saying, "You'll never amount to much, Mary!" He yells at her often crushing her feelings. Furthermore, the father is physically abusive to Mary and Mary's mother. The baby sister cries helplessly. Fortunately, the father does not pick on HER. Eventually, Mary cries out for help desperately to her math teacher. The situation is so bad, it has escalated to Mary wanting to commit suicide.

### Discussion questions:

1. If you were Mary's friend, what advice would you give her?
2. If you were having suicidal thoughts, who can you go to for help?
3. Describe the signs of depression. What may a person do or say if they are at risk of hurting themselves?

### Correlated TEKS:

ELAR 14A: Plan a first draft by selecting a genre appropriate for conveying the intended meaning to an audience, determining appropriate topics through a range of strategies (discussion, background reading, personal interests, interviews), and developing a thesis or controlling idea.

ELAR 14 B: Develop drafts by choosing an appropriate organizational strategy (e.g., sequence of events, cause-effect, compare/contrast,) and building on ideas to create a focused, organized, and coherent piece of writing.

ELAR 14C: Revise drafts to ensure precise word choice and vivid images, consistent point of view, use of simple, compound and complex sentences, internal and external coherence, and the use of effective transitions after rethinking how well questions of purpose, audience, and genre have been addressed.

ELAR 17Aiii: Write a multi-paragraph essay to convey information about a topic that is logically organized with appropriate facts and details and includes no extraneous information or inconsistencies.

## **There are two ways to use the Scenarios:**

1. Teacher Centered:
  - Read the scenarios.
  - Choose 3 based on the topics presented.
  - Present one scenario for the students to solve together and scribe for them on the board, overhead or Smartboard™. Consider the possible solutions and discuss why one could be considered a better solution over another.
  
2. Student Centered:
  - Scenarios are copied and given to students to review on their own.
  - Students are placed into groups.
  - They prepare their scenario to share with their peers (probing or open-ended questions).
  - After they become “experts” they move to another group to discuss and listen to the next group’s presentation.
  - At the end of the session, the class comes to summarize what they have learned during the experience.