

Debate Scenarios

Teacher Note: Select the scenario that is most applicable to your class, allow the students to select the scenario they would like to debate, or create a scenario that best fits your school or class.

Scenario #1:

Noah sees the same bully tormenting the same victim every day in school, and nobody tells a teacher about it. Should Noah speak up and risk being labeled as a “tattletale,” or should he ignore it and mind his own business? What’s best for the victim? What’s best for Noah?

Scenario #2

Josie has been getting thinner and thinner. Her friends compliment her on how good she looks in several outfits. You’ve noticed that Josie isn’t eating lunch or when she does join the girls for lunch, she picks at her food. You’re growing concerned about Josie’s health. Is she anorexic? You’ve subtly questioned Josie, but she says she isn’t and is just thin! You’re thinking about talking with the school counselor about Josie. Should you share your concerns or should you not? What if Josie finds out that you’ve talked about her behind her back? What’s best for Josie?

Scenario #3

Last Saturday night’s party was a great time! Kids were talking, laughing, dancing, and mixing with each other. Mike, a tight-end on the football team, was enjoying himself until he realized that Andrew, the QB, was spiking his own Coke **with alcohol**--a team rule violation! Because they are friends on the field, Mike tells Andrew he doesn’t think Andrew should be drinking. What if coach finds out? Andrew says coach will never know! What should Mike do? Let it go? Tell the coach? What would the other players do if they found out Mike told? But...drinking is a rule violation...what’s best for the team?

