

# understanding consent & power dynamics

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following scenarios, keeping an eye out for the 6 Building Blocks of Consent:

1. Appropriate Age
2. Equal Power
3. Enthusiastic "Yes!"
4. Freely Given
5. Understood
6. Reversible

## Scenario 1:

Alix just got her first job at a pizza place; she is learning a lot and is really happy to be making her own money. Some of her coworkers that have been working there for awhile ignore her when she asks questions and seem to always give her the worst tasks. Her manager, Paul, has been really helpful and always tells her he's got her back if anyone gives her a hard time. One night Alix's coworkers leave her with a bunch of extra cleaning to do. Paul stays late to help Alix clean up and then asks if she wants to come over to his house and hang out for a while after work. Alix feels really uncomfortable, but she is grateful for his help, and worried that if she says no he won't stand up for her the next time her coworkers are messing with her.

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

Equal Power, Enthusiastic "Yes!", Freely Given, Understood

Who do you think has more power in this scenario? Why?

Paul has more power than Alix, as he is her manager and impacts her employment, including her work schedule (and thus her income), her tasks, and how her coworkers treat her.

## Scenario 2:

Parker and Charli are walking home from school one day when Parker asks if Charli wants to come over and play video games. Charli has had a crush on Parker for a long time and wants to spend time together, but was told to come straight home from school that day. Charli responds by saying "I don't know, maybe another time," but Parker begins to tease Charli by saying "what are you going to do, your homework?!" and laughing. Charli feels embarrassed and pressured to go so says "you're right, I'll come over for a little."

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

Appropriate Age, Equal Power, Enthusiastic "Yes!", Freely Given

Who do you think has more power in this scenario? Why?

Parker is in a position of power because Charli has a crush on them. Whether or not Parker is aware of how Charli feels, Charli's crush may motivate them to act in ways they think will make Parker happy. Their conversation is a good clue that their communication is not equal, and Parker is not respectful of Charli.

# understanding consent & power dynamics

Read the following scenarios, keeping an eye out for the 6 Building Blocks of Consent:

1. Appropriate Age
2. Equal Power
3. Enthusiastic "Yes!"
4. Freely Given
5. Understood
6. Reversible

## Scenario 3:

Ciera is 23 years old. She is a teacher and the girls' soccer coach at Lake High School. She has been coaching the boys' soccer team lately because the boys' coach has been out sick. Some of the girls notice that Ciera is kind of flirtatious with some of the guys on the team. She has also been offering a few of the boys private coaching sessions, but tells them to keep it a secret, so the girls don't get jealous. Your friend is on the boys' team and tells you privately that he hooked up with Ciera last weekend and is feeling discomfort about it.

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

Appropriate Age, Equal Power, Freely Given, Understood

Who do you think has more power in this scenario? Why?

Ciera is in a position of power and authority, as a teacher and soccer coach. It's illegal (and unethical) for a teacher and coach to engage in a sexual relationship with a student, as there is too much of a power imbalance.

## Scenario 4:

Evan is a senior in high school and Ayana is a sophomore; they have been dating for almost 3 months and text each other a lot. One night while texting, Evan asked Ayana to send him a nude photo. It made Ayana uncomfortable but she didn't want Evan to think she didn't like him. Ayana tried to make a joke out of it and said no nicely, but Evan responded by telling her it wasn't a big deal and that she could send it on Snapchat so it would disappear. He also said that he didn't understand what her problem was because his ex-girlfriend used to send them all the time. Feeling pressured, Ayana sent the Snap and a few minutes later got a notification that Evan had taken a screen shot.

What building blocks of consent are missing in this scenario?

Appropriate Age, Equal Power, Enthusiastic "Yes!", Freely Given, Understood, Reversible

Who do you think has more power in this scenario? Why?

Evan is in a position of power over Ayana: he manipulates her into sending the photo by pressuring her and mentioning that his ex-girlfriend used to send photos. Now that he has a screenshot of Ayana's photo, he has additional power and leverage over her.