Digital Footprints & Photo Sharing

Digital Dilemma

When Vin sent his friend an embarrassing picture of himself on Snapchat, he hadn't expected that his friend would take a screenshot of the picture and upload it to Facebook. He didn't want to seem uptight, but he was pretty embarrassed that the picture was posted for all to see. He texted his friend: "Not cool, man. Take it down." His screen lit up: "hahahah." Vin texted back: "Nah, I'm not playing, take it off." His friend wrote back: "Whoa, chill out, I'm just playing," but he didn't take down the picture. Vin was about to go through recruiting for college sports, and while he knew the picture wouldn't get him in trouble, it wasn't exactly the image he wanted recruiters to see.

Discussion Questions

Communication

Compare how Vin and his friend use the word "playing." What are some consequences of words with vague definitions? Why do you think it is challenging for Vin to effectively communicate his feelings over text? Can you think of a better way for Vin to talk to his friend?

TEACHING TIP: The goal is to illustrate how different forms of communication can lead to effective or ineffective understanding from both parties.

Perseverance

If Vin's friend still refuses to take down the picture after Vin's repeated requests, what are some other ways for Vin to make sure the image doesn't impact his digital footprint and his college chances?

Courage

How might social pressure impact Vin's willingness to stand up for himself? Do you think that people would stand up for themselves more often if they weren't concerned about what others thought of them?

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Extension Resources

Suggested Digital Citizenship Lessons

Digital Tools

What's most meaningful about curious exploration is the path, not the destination.

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