

Privacy, Surveillance & Self-Disclosure

Digital Dilemma

Nik and his girlfriend Blair were hanging out at his house. Blair got up to go to the bathroom and left her phone on the couch. While she was gone, Nik noticed her phone light up and saw the name Matthew out of the corner of his eye. He was torn about whether or not to look, then decided he would take a quick look at the texts displayed on the main screen. But he couldn't resist: He knew her phone password, so he typed it and opened the conversation. Before he knew it, he was scrolling through Blair's conversations. He saw that she had been texting Matthew a lot. Nik was furious, but he couldn't decide whether or not to confront Blair and admit that he had looked at her text messages. Finally, he decided he was too angry to ignore it. Blair could not believe that Nik had looked through her messages — she thought that he trusted her and she felt like this was a complete invasion of her privacy.



Discussion Questions

Empathy

Consider both Nik's and Blair's points of view. Why is Nik frustrated with Blair? Why is Blair frustrated with Nik? Do you think that one or the other has more of a "right" to be angry?

TEACHING TIP: It's important to illustrate how examining each perspective can reveal that many disagreements occur simply because they have different views based on their experiences.

Self-Control

Since Blair trusted Nik with her phone password, does this give him a right to open her phone and read her texts? What do you think Nik should have done after seeing that Matthew texted Blair?

Communication

If you were Blair, what would you say to Nik? If you were Nik, what would you say to Blair?

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Extension Resources

Suggested Digital Citizenship Lessons



Digital Tools

Just a small offering
of appreciation
can transform
relationships and
boost student
self-worth.

