Selfie Culture

Dylan's friend Jamie was completely addicted to posting selfies. Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, you name it — Jamie's page was covered in selfies. Dylan had tried to ignore it, but it was only getting worse and a few things were especially driving Dylan crazy. One: Their other friends had started making fun of Jamie's posting. Dylan didn't know what to do — defend Jamie or join in? Tell Jamie about their friends' teasing, or just stay quiet? Two: Whenever they were hanging out, Jamie would be snapping selfies or asking for Dylan's opinion about which picture to post and what to make the caption. It started to seem like it was all about Jamie, all the time, and Dylan was exhausted.

Discussion Questions

Perseverance

If Dylan asks Jamie to tone down the selfie posts but Jamie ignores his request, what do you think Dylan should do next (without nagging his friend)?

Empathy

Selfies aren't necessarily a bad thing. What are some good aspects of selfies? Where would you draw the line between in-control and out-of-control selfie-taking?

Self-Control

Why do you think Jamie is "addicted" to posting selfies? What reason(s) might someone have for constantly posting pictures of him/herself?

TEACHING TIP: Point out to students that addiction and self-control are related, but are not the same thing. Ask them what they think the difference is.

Humility

What role do you think social media plays in people's evaluations of themselves? Do you think that the pictures people post on social media are accurate reflections of themselves and their lives? Why or why not?

TEACHING TIP: Try to get students thinking about the bigger picture. How do they see themselves around friends? How do they see themselves as part of a larger, global community?

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Extension Resources

Suggested Digital Citizenship Lessons

Digital Tools

You don't have to stop using the tools you love or toss out your lesson or curricular plans to start developing SEL.