

Cyberbullying Scenarios

As a group, consider each scenario and discuss how you would've reacted.
The same? Differently? Why?

Scenario 1

Carl began receiving hostile emails from an address he didn't recognize. He suspected the emails were from someone he knew because they criticized his hairstyle and clothes he wore to school. Carl decided not to tell his parents about the problem because he thought his parents might restrict his Internet privileges as a result.

Scenario 2

A friend of Mailynne's received a text message accusing Mailynne of having shoplifted some makeup from a department store. The story was false, and the person spreading the rumor was jealous that Mailynne got excellent grades. Mailynne discovered that this person had spread the same text rumor to at least two of her other friends. Mailynne discussed the situation with her coach after soccer practice. The coach suggested that Mailynne send the girl a text message asking her to stop spreading the rumor. He also advised her to get copies of the text rumor from her friends to keep as evidence in case the problem continued.

Scenario 3

Someone who Rashad had "friended" on Facebook — a person he had met once at a party but didn't know very well — started posting weird photographs on Rashad's timeline. After discussing the situation with his dad, Rashad sent the person a private message asking him to stop, but the inappropriate postings continued. Rashad took three additional actions: He "unfriended" the person on Facebook; he blocked the person from seeing his Facebook account; and finally, he reported the offensive photographs to Facebook administrators.

Scenario 4

A guy Nandita knew asked her to a party. She politely declined, making up an excuse not to go. When Nandita turned down a second and third invitation to go out with the guy, he started sending her creepy emails and text messages. The messages referred to her "hot" body and contained sexual comments. Nandita told her friend, who advised Nandita to ignore it. When the unwanted messages continued, Nandita went to her school guidance counselor, even though she felt embarrassed to discuss the problem. The counselor told Nandita she was being sexually harassed and that school administrators would take action to make the harassment stop.