



Becci

WeBlog: Relationship Matrix

WeBlog Guide Activity One: Harassment

Sometimes girls don't realize they are hurting someone else's feelings. What is teasing? What is it harassment? What's the difference?

There can be a fine line between the two. Teasing will not make you uncomfortable; you are laughing along with the joke or this is a style of communication you and your friends are comfortable with. No one goes too far with teasing and offends another. Harassment is more serious than teasing; it is deliberately hurting someone's feelings by your actions.

An example would be if Becci's friends teased her about liking a boy in her class. On the other hand, if they made fun of her for liking him, posted insulting things about her on their blogs, or constantly bugged her about her crush, that's harassment.

There's also the issue of sexual harassment. This is never fun for girls who receive or watch it. Some examples of this behavior might include:

- Boys commenting on a girl's figure
- Girls commenting on a guy's build
- Making unwelcome suggestions and comments with sexual overtones
- Targeting someone because they are gay, lesbian, transgendered, or transsexual

Take this quick quiz to see how much you know about teasing, harassment, and sexual harassment.

Quiz: Is it teasing or harassment?

After each statement, put "T" if you think it's an example of teasing, "H" if you think it's harassment, and "SH" if you think it's sexual harassment:

1. Becci's friend says, "Hey, how did you get to be friends with a hot guy like Adam? Do you think you could play matchmaker and get him to go out with me?". _____
2. A boy in Becci's class watches her playing volleyball during gym class and calls out: "Hey Becci, I like your shorts – nice legs!," and then goes over to her and touches her thigh. He and all his friends laugh. _____
3. When Becci entered tenth grade, a teacher assigned her nemesis Marsha to be her partner in Biology class. Becci had never forgiven Marsha for bullying her during middle school, but she pretended to like her so they could get a good grade in Biology. Throughout the semester, she made rude comments but pretended to be joking to Marsha, who was squeamish about dissection and couldn't understand anatomy. "You really are a dumb blonde!" she said one time, which made Marsha run out of the class crying. _____





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Answers

1. If this is said in a funny way and not repeated, it's an example of teasing. If Becci's friend won't stop asking, it could turn into harassment.
2. While the boy and his friends might actually think they're complimenting Becci, this is an example of sexually harassing someone because it embarrassed her in front of others.
3. Marsha had insulted Becci in the past and used many mean behaviors, but now Becci was harassing her by pretending to tease and joke. Although she didn't realize just how deep her feelings were, the comments Marsha had made a long time ago still hurt Becci's feelings. Marsha couldn't understand why Becci would be so cruel to her. Once Kelly talked to both of them about their behavior, Marsha and Becci recognized that they had hurt each other's feelings.

How do you decide if you're being teased vs. harassed? Are there certain subjects it's okay to joke around with your friends about, and others that are not?

Remember, you have the right to feel comfortable and safe always. If you become the victim of harassment you can do something. Tell someone you trust like a parent or trusted adult. It is never your fault and you should never be ashamed to tell.





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WeBlog Guide Activity Two: First Impressions

Before you decide whether or not you are going to talk to someone, do you automatically make assumptions about them based on their looks and what they're wearing? Women have a tendency to do this because we take in body language and appearance in greater detail than men. Are your first impressions generally right?

What kind of first impression do you make on people?

First Impressions: How Do You Make or Take Them?

1. How has your opinion of someone changed dramatically since your first impression of them? Why do you think this has happened?

2. How might you dress differently for different occasions, i.e. first day back to school, a Scout meeting, or an interview for your first job? How do the impressions you are trying to make differ?

3. Do you think its possible to use stereotypes to express oneself, or just limit oneself? Give an example.

4. Think of a time you, or someone else, tried to make a first impression that couldn't be kept up with, i.e. someone shy pretending to have an extroverted personality. What are some reasons a person might do that?

Now think of some girls you know whose appearances don't "fit" with their personalities. Without using names or specifics, guesstimate what percent of the time a girl's outward appearance matches her inner personality. Then share your favorite article of clothing, and describe what it says about you.





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WeBlog Guide Activity Three: Tattoo You Yes or No?

About a fourth of teens have a tattoo, and this figure is likely to rise. Some girls even have parents who are tattooed, so they are more inclined to give their daughters permission to get one. (The same is true of multiple piercings.)

If other girls in your crowd have a tattoo or are getting one soon, you might think about it for yourself. Here are some tattoo pros and cons suggested by girls:

Pros:

"You'll have an ever-lasting memory of yourself at that time"

"They look really cool and say something about you"

"Maybe you'll become interested in a career designing tattoos"

"They can be an expression of love or friendship"

"They create unity among people who have them"

Cons:

"Your tastes might change"

"It lasts forever unless you get laser removal, which is painful and expensive"

"You could get an infection or allergic reaction"

"My friend said it hurt"

"Tattoos generally are expensive"

Tattoos and multiple piercings may be all the rage at your school, so it's a good idea to explore how you feel about "body art," and your motivation for getting them.

