Influences
Real Mistakes
Real Life
Real Consequences
Sponsors:
All of us find ourselves having to make tough ethical choices. What would you do? Not what you tell everyone you would do, but what you would really do? Do you rationalize an unethical choice, or do you make the ethical decision? High school is tough for students. Many of them are trying to fit in, decide what to do after high school, and some are just trying to make it through the day. Parents and school officials often times just see one version of high school. There are two different worlds in high school, the ones the parents see and the ones that students see. In an effort to show the “real” high school, the Hanna-Westside Extension Campus’s Project Challenge drama class and Clemson University’s Business Writing class have created a DVD revealing the hardest ethical decisions that high school students face.

Gritty, raw and honest, Influences: Real Life, Real Mistakes, and Real Consequences** *deals with issues facing real teens. The DVD follows the lives of high school students and reveals what decisions they face. These situations are based on true stories, surveys, and focus groups. This DVD is not intended to tell students what choices to make, but to make students think. What would I really do in that situation?
1. What could Daniel have done to prevent the fight from happening?

2. What about the other students who were receiving text messages? What could they have done to prevent the fight from happening?

3. What can be done to prevent gang fights from happening inside and outside of school?

4. What are some other ways that gangs affect school?

5. Why do people join gangs? Are there other ways to get the same acceptance?

6. How could have Daniel gotten out of being in the gang while saving face?
Influences

Real Mistakes

Real Life

Real Consequences
1. What options are available for people who want to have sex? What are the birth control methods that can be used to prevent pregnancy?

2. How do you think the baby will affect Cara’s life? Do you think she will finish school?

3. Think forward to after the baby is born. What kind of life do you think Cara will be able to provide for the baby?

4. Is sex simply recreation or is it more serious than that? Why do people feel wronged when a boyfriend/girlfriend cheats on them?

5. Are there other risks to having sex besides STDs, pregnancy, and ruined relationships?

6. What STDs can you get from having unprotected sex?

7. How do you think Jared will be as a father? Do you think he will step up to his responsibility?

8. Why would someone lie about being a virgin? What about the use of birth control methods such as pills and condoms?
Influences

Real Mistakes

Real Life

Real Consequences
1. In this DVD we see the issue of body image surface. How prevalent are body image issues among high school students? Both girls and boys?

2. What does having a “perfect body” mean? How can we change the way we look at a “perfect body”? How does one lose self-esteem? How can one gain self-esteem?

3. Just because a medicine is prescribed, does it mean it’s safe?

4. What are some consequences for taking unprescribed pills? What are some consequences for selling pills?

5. When the cops enter to break up the party, we see the Renee reflecting on the night. Do you think it is okay to have sex while you are under the influence of any kind, whether drugs or alcohol?

6. What should you do if you think you have been raped?

7. What options are available for teens that have been drugged and don’t remember what happened?
ALCOHOL

1. Do you have older friends who buy you tobacco and alcohol products? Is this something that they should do? Why? Why not?

2. It is a criminal offense to possess a fake ID. What are some consequences for having a fake ID?

3. Peer pressure is on Carson to have a house party. How could she have handled the peer pressure? What could she have said? What would have a changed as a result of Carson not having the party?

4. What are some responses to somebody trying to force you to drink alcohol if you don’t want to? Why do people try to force others to drink?

5. Drinking and driving has always been a problem amongst teens. What are some ways to convince people that they are not well enough to drive and to give up their keys? Think about yourself.
Influences

Real Life

Real Mistakes

Real Consequences
1. How does David justify his choice? Do you think he has a legitimate reason for needing help on his school work?

2. What are some consequences to Katelyn if she gets caught? Academic consequences? Should Katelyn have told the truth to the principal as to why she was cheating? Why didn’t she tell the principal the truth about what happened?

3. What are some responses Katelyn could have given David to avoid being pressured into texting him answers for a test he didn’t study for? What are some ways to deal with pressure from family, girlfriends/boyfriends, coaches, teachers, and fans to succeed?

4. What options did David have in the situation? Does David really care that Katelyn got in trouble for sending him test answers over her cell phone? Does he only care about football? Why is this?
Think it Over

• Are you willing to lose a close friendship if it means saving their lives?

• How does each character justify their decisions?
  o Daniel    o Jared
  o Carson    o Cara
  o Bridget   o David
  o Renee     o Katelyn
  o Casey     o Quinton

• Why do we make unethical decisions?

• If you see something happening to a friend or on campus, how many of you say anything? Why or Why not?

• Is it hard to step in and get involved when you see something that has the potential to turn out badly?
Think it Over

• Which one of the issues do you see as the most significant? Why?

• Where are examples of apathy in the DVD?

• Why is it so hard to do the right thing sometimes?

• What are some times you “wish you would have”?

• What are some times you didn’t say anything when you say something unethical taking place?

• Which one of the issues do you see as the least significant? Why?
Activities

• Pick three major scenes and rewrite the endings.

• Research local places where teens can go for help with drugs, alcohol, and gangs. Locate the contact information, type it up, and pass it out to your school for awareness.

• Research STDs and their effects on the body.

• Research other pills that are frequently used by teens. What are they, why are they used, and what are their side effects?
Activities

• Write a Public Service Ad to high school students about one of the issues in the video.

• Get a group together and discuss the “rights” and “wrongs” that occur in the DVD. If no one got caught, would the wrongs (acts that are wrong) still be wrong? Are the things wrongdoers do wrong because they are punished for doing them or are they punished for doing them because they are wrong? Would you say that bad consequences are one mark or indicator of wrong action? Are there other indicators of wrongness?

• Start a Facebook group that helps support teenagers having make tough decisions.
## Credits:
### Ashley Cowden’s Business Writing Class:

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Raegan Bennefield                        Anna Logan Minyard
Sarah Benson                             Stephan Rousey
Ben Caron                                 Tara Scott
Noah Cox                                  Sara Ashley Steen
Vivien Felarca                           Jacob Swizdaryk
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