Play It Out: Texting and Sexting
(Think Before You Hit Send)

TEACHER’S GUIDE
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**Introduction**

With the new technologies, students, using their cell phones, mobile email devices and handheld computers, can send and receive messages within seconds. Unfortunately, most kids don’t know social and legal consequences of sending an inappropriate text or picture. This program explores the basic do’s and don’ts of texting and sexting. After viewing this program, students will come to realize the importance of considering the long term and unintended consequences of hitting “send.”

**Learning Objectives**

- Understand that the technology to communicate immediately with people is powerful
- Learn that it's important to think about the message you're communicating and how it will affect others
- Realize that spreading rumors can set off a painful chain reaction
- Be careful of who you share confidential information with because many relationships end because of that
- Use good judgment before sending any personal information or potentially embarrassing photos
- Realize that once you hit "send" you've lost control of the information you were sending
- Learn that electronic messaging can impact your life and the life of others
Program Summary

The Power of Texting
Jenny is angry with Emily. She makes up a nasty, hurtful rumor and texts it to her friends. Soon everyone in the school is talking about it. Emily is embarrassed to even show her face in school.

Spreading Rumors
When Courtney gets angry at Claudia for going out with a boy she likes, Courtney decides to make Claudia's life miserable. She spreads a rumor that Claudia is pregnant. Courtney delights in the fact that everyone believes it. Claudia retaliates by spreading a secret that Courtney had shared with her weeks ago.

Things Change
When Matt and Turquoise go through a painful breakup, Matt decides he wants to hurt her even more. A friend suggests that Matt send an embarrassing photo of Turquoise. Matt finds a photo that was meant for his eyes only and sends it to all of their friends. Turquoise responds by sharing Matt's most embarrassing secret.

Don't Give Up Control
To gain the attention of a boy she likes, Claudia sends an "sexy" photo of herself to Spencer hoping that he would ask her to the prom. When Spencer gets the picture he shows his friend Matt and Sam. Matt says to share the picture with everyone, Sam advises that just having the picture could get Spencer in trouble. When the picture leaks out, Claudia is horrified and embarrassed.
Dear Family Member:

Your son/daughter has seen a program called, “Texting and Sexting (Think Before You Hit Send)”. With the new technologies, students, using their cell phones, mobile email devices and handheld computers, can send and receive messages within seconds. Unfortunately, most kids don’t know social and legal consequences of sending an inappropriate text or picture. This program explores the basic do’s and don’ts of texting and sexting. After viewing this program, students will come to realize the importance of considering the long term and unintended consequences of hitting "send." Using fictionalized stories of four young adults, the program helps students...

- Understand that the technology to communicate immediately with people is powerful
- Learn that it's important to think about the message you're communicating and how it will affect others
- Realize that spreading rumors can set off a painful chain reaction
- Be careful of who you share confidential information with because many relationships end because of that
- Use good judgment before sending any personal information or potentially embarrassing photos
- Realize that once you hit "send" you've lost control of the information you were sending
- Learn that electronic messaging can impact your life and the life of others

Talk to your son/daughter about what he or she learned from the program. Discuss the positive and negatives aspects of texting and how to manage them. Most importantly, set a good example.
Guidelines for Group Discussion

Group discussion is an invaluable way to explore ideas and issues, foster creativity, and build communication and social skills in young students. The following guidelines can help you maintain a “discussion-friendly” classroom:

• Create a climate of openness and acceptance. Encourage students to show respect for the opinions of others and model this behavior yourself.

• Establish ground rules. Students can participate in formulating the rules for discussion. Rules will vary, but should include some of these general principles: -No putdowns, ridicule or sarcasm. -Everyone may speak without interruption.- Everyone has the right to pass.

• Guard against inappropriate self-disclosure. An intense discussion may lead students to reveal inappropriate information about themselves or others. Sensitivity and vigilance can help you head off such revelations.

• Probe behind the neat and tidy answers. Children are good at telling adults what they think adults want to hear. To find out what students really think, it is often helpful to prolong discussion time and encourage greater depth. Offer a “What if...?”; bring out issues such as fairness, justice, intent or lack of it, and so on. Children have a remarkable capacity to discern complexities and subtleties, and their discussion can be very rich.
Questions for Discussion

1. Do you think there are safety concerns associated with texting?
2. What can you do to ensure texting doesn’t affect your friendships and relationships?
3. What are some ways to practice good texting habits?
4. Why is it important to be careful of who you share confidential information with?
5. Explain the importance of how the information of a text can impact your life and others.
Classroom Activity

Distribute Handout #1 to the class before showing the program. Tally their answers below. After viewing the program, distribute another copy of Handout #1 and have the students fill in their answers again. Tally the responses. Compare the answers to see how the students’ views changed. Lead a discussion with the class about how and why their opinions changed and what they learned from the program.
Handout #1

Read each statement below and decide if you agree or disagree. Circle your answer in the left hand column. After viewing the program, read the statements again and circle your answers in the right hand column. Did your answer change? Talk about it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Viewing</th>
<th>After Viewing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agree  Disagree</td>
<td>Sexting is an important part of a relationship and is ok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree  Disagree</td>
<td>There can be legal implications to sexting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agree  Disagree</td>
<td>Technology to communicate immediately is very powerful</td>
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<td>Agree  Disagree</td>
<td>Spreading rumors through technology can set off a fast chain reaction</td>
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<td>Agree  Disagree</td>
<td>Electronic messaging can impact your life and the life of others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agree  Disagree</td>
<td>Using good judgment before sending any personal information can be beneficial to you and others involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree  Disagree</td>
<td>Be careful who you share confidential information with because it can affect your life and others</td>
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Handout #2

Circle the numbers below that represent how many texts you think it is appropriate to send in a day.

1-10  10-25  25-50  50-100  100+

Explain why you chose your answer:

Circle the sample text messages below that represent things it would be appropriate to text your friends or family about. Put an x on ones that might spread rumors and could possibly get you in trouble.

I just got an A on a paper for Mrs. Smith, the hardest teacher in school.

The lunch is serving the mystery meat again.

I just saw a girl that didn’t look like Patty kissing Patty’s boyfriend.

Lacrosse practice is canceled after school.

Did you see her designer jeans? How could she afford those?? I bet she stole them.

What time does the party start tonight?

Michael got muscular fast. Can you say steroids?

Coffee after school? It has been like the worst day ever!

Think about your best friend(s). How many times a day to you text your best friend(s). What kinds of things do you text about? Write a general list about the things you might text your friends in a day.
Handout #3

Journal Entry

Write a journal entry from the perspective of a girl or boy who just went on a first date. You come in school on Monday to find out that your date not only texted the entire school false information, but attached a very sexual picture (that doesn’t paint you in the best light) that you can only assume they downloaded from the internet. By lunch you have a new nickname, which you can’t walk two steps with out being called and the guidance counselor wants to see you during 8th period.
**Handout #4**

True or False

Check true if you think the answer is true. Check false if you think the answer is false.

<table>
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<th>True</th>
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1. Sexting is part of a relationship and is ok.
2. Texting personal information can affect your life and others.
3. Texting is quick and efficient.
4. Once you hit send, you no longer have control over the information you just sent out.
5. Rumors can be spread easily through texting and other forms of immediate communication technology.
HOST (VO): The played out program you are about to see was recorded at an off-Broadway theatre in New York City. A group of actors are all acting students studying in New York. Each scenario is recorded unscripted, unrehearsed and totally improvised.

HOST (OC): It’s quick. It’s instant. Texting is the most popular means of communication. It’s an important part of all of our lives. It’s how we keep in touch with our friends and our families. It’s how we share our thoughts, feelings, and ideas. Texting is a great way to communicate, but if not used responsibly, texting can cause problems and unpleasant consequences. That’s why it’s important to think before you hit send. Let’s play it out.

POWER OF TEXTING

HOST (OC): When you think about it, having the ability to send messages, images and photos instantaneously gives you a certain kind of power that can influence the lives of others. How you use texting is up to you. You can send messages that make people feel good, or you can send messages and make people miserable. How? Let’s play it out.

HOST (VO): In this scene Sam and Emily are working on a project together at a library. They’re both receiving several text messages. Notice how the messages affect each of them.

EMILY: I’m so not ready for this test tomorrow.

SAM: Me either. I feel like my eyes are melting I’ve studied this so much.

EMILY: It’s so much information. Thank you so much for getting together with me. No-one’s talking to me at school; it’s been ridiculous.
SAM: I’m sorry – I’m really sorry to hear that. I need all the help I can get with this test.

EMILY: Yeah, totally.

SAM: (LAUGHS) My friend Ryan – inside joke.

EMILY: Jenny’s busy Friday. Go figure.

SAM: It’s no.

EMILY: Yeah I asked her to go hang out at a movie or something; I needed to talk to her but...

SAM: You needed to talk to her at a movie?

EMILY: Just to bond. I haven’t seen anyone ever since I went out with Jeff, you know.

SAM: (LAUGHS)

EMILY: It wasn’t even a date either, it was just (CROSSTALK)

SAM: He’s dressed like a fairy.

EMILY: That’s funny.

SAM: (SIGHS) Study, study, study, right?

EMILY: Right.

SAM: My God, this is just so boring.

EMILY: You know, it wasn’t even a date – Jeffrey just wanted to talk to me, because Sarah doesn’t say anything and I am Jeffrey’s friend – we hang out in gym class all the time. So why can’t I just hang out with Jeff? Now Jenny and....they’re all spreading rumors about me, that we hooked up or something, which is so not true.

SAM: Spreading rumors about you?
EMILY: Yeah. Ask them. (INAUDIBLE). Nobody talks to me at school anymore.

SAM: Sorry. It’s Jenny. She said that you hooked up with her, with that guy. This is really ironic! It’s really coincidental she would say that as we were talking about her. I guess I was wrong – I guess she is spreading rumors about you.

EMILY: I mean why would she do that? It’s hard going to school every day and not having anyone to talk to. She was the one person I confided in, and now she’s even spreading rumors about me. What am I supposed to do?

SAM: I can text them right now if you want me to.

EMILY: No, it’s fine. Wait a minute. Oh my God, five texts in a row.

SAM: Five? I’m not even getting any.

EMILY: It was from half the girls in the whole class. What am I supposed to do? They’re all saying stuff about me and I can’t stop them because no-one’s going to believe me. They’re all freaking out about me, what am I supposed to do?

SAM: What are they saying?

EMILY: (CROSSTALK) No-one’s going to talk to me at school. I can’t go to school tomorrow, I’ve got to skip the exam.

SAM: No – you can’t skip the exam. It’s the finals.

EMILY: Yes I am. I’m not going to be able to study. I can’t study when everyone’s just staring at me and knows that I did stuff – I didn’t do anything! They think I broke girl codes, and I talked to this guy. It’s not fair—

SAM: (LAUGHS)
EMILY: What? What? What’s on your phone?

SAM: It’s Ryan. Sorry.

HOST (VO): The kinds of messages you send can impact people’s lives in a good, or bad, way.


HOST (VO): Texting provides you with the opportunity to make someone feel good without being there in person.

EMILY: That’s fine. Wait a minute. Five texts in a row.

SAM: Five?

HOST (VO): Texting allows you to be mean and hurtful without having to face your victim.

EMILY: What am I supposed to do – they’re all saying stuff about me and I can’t stop them because no-one’s going to believe me. They’re all freaking out about me – what am I supposed to do?

HOST (VO): The messages you communicate can tremendously impact people’s lives.

EMILY: Everyone’s just staring at me and knows that I did stuff – I didn’t do anything.

SAM: I know you didn’t.

HOST (OC): So before you hit send, think about the message you’re sending.

SPREADING RUMORS

HOST (VO BLACK): You know, not long ago it would take hours for a nasty rumor to travel around the school or community. But today, hundreds of people can hear about a rumor within seconds, and all at the same time.
HOST (VO): In this scenario Courtney is angry with Claudia, because Claudia is dating a guy that Courtney likes. Let’s play it out.

HOST (OC): With today’s communication technology, it’s easy to make up a rumor and spread it in a matter of seconds. Rumors are hurtful to the person the rumor is about. But a rumor can also be hurtful to the person spreading the rumor. Rumors can cause very unpleasant consequences for lots of people.

TURQUOISE: Hey Courtney, what’s up?

COURTNEY: I can’t believe Claudia. She is being such a jerk.

TURQUOISE: What’s wrong? What are you texting?

COURTNEY: You know how I like Kevin, right? I was going to ask him out – Claudia’s going to the prom with him.

TURQUOISE: Did he ask her out, or...

COURTNEY: No, she asked him, after I told her that I liked him and that I wanted to go with him.

TURQUOISE: Well maybe she misunderstood you. Why would she do that?

COURTNEY: No – she did it on purpose.

TURQUOISE: Have you talked to Claudia?

COURTNEY: No. I know what she was doing. It’s fine though; she’ll get what she deserves.

TURQUOISE: What are you texting? What is this about?

COURTNEY: Sending...

TURQUOISE: What are you sending?

COURTNEY: I just told everybody in the school that she’s pregnant.
TURQUOISE: You know she’s not pregnant.

COURTNEY: I don’t know. She, like, gained a couple of pounds. People might believe it.

TURQUOISE: That’s mean though - why would you do that?

COURTNEY: Sure it’s mean. She shouldn’t have asked Kevin out; whatever.

TURQUOISE: That doesn’t mean that you need to spread a rumor that she’s pregnant. I mean c’mon, that’s huge.

COURTNEY: People are believing me. Oh my God! It’s so funny, it’s perfect. Really, that’s the perfect plan.

CLAUDIA: No it’s true. I know, I didn’t think he was going to say yes either. I know. Do you want to go dress shopping this weekend? I don’t know what I’m going to wear. Can I call you back? Okay, bye.

MALE: Are you not telling me something?

CLAUDIA: Kevin and I are going to the prom together. I know – that was my expression.

MALE: No (SHOWS HER TEXT).

CLAUDIA: What! Who sent this to you?

MALE: Courtney.

CLAUDIA: I’m not pregnant.

MALE: Are you sure?

CLAUDIA: I haven’t been going to the gym as much lately but I’m not pregnant, I swear. Why would she do this to me?

MALE: Didn’t she tell you the other day when we were at lunch that she kind of liked Kevin.
CLAUDIA: I mean, yeah, but I told her that I kind of liked him too. No.

MALE: Okay.

CLAUDIA: Do you know that Courtney is failing almost half of her classes, and that she’s not graduating on time? Yeah, she told me this a couple of weeks ago, but I was a good friend and didn’t tell anyone. That is about to change.

MALE: Are you sure about that?

CLAUDIA: No, I don’t care. I’m not pregnant. That’s so disrespectful.

MALE: But maybe you should be like, the whole bigger person thing. Better person, bigger person.

CLAUDIA: Really? She spread the rumor that I’m pregnant, and I’m supposed to be a better person and not retaliate? At least my rumor’s true; I mean, me being pregnant is just...

MALE: Are you sure that it’s not true?

CLAUDIA: I mean, she told me. I don’t know why she would make that up. Alright, sent. Good. Hope she gets upset.

HOST (OC): Rumors and revenge are not a healthy combination. They’re like a disease that can spread and destroy people’s lives, reputations, and relationships.

HOST (VO): When someone hurts you or is mean to you, your first thought is maybe to retaliate.

COURTNEY: I know what she was doing. I know, she’ll get what she deserves.

HOST (VO): Spreading a rumor can be more devastating to a person’s reputation than just about anything else.

CLAUDIA: Who sent this to you?
MALE: Courtney.

CLAUDIA: I’m not pregnant. I mean, okay, I haven’t been going to the gym as much lately but I’m not pregnant, I swear.

HOST (VO): One of the consequences of starting a rumor is that you may open yourself up to someone spreading a rumor about you in retaliation, and that probably won’t end well.

CLAUDIA: Yeah, she told me this a couple of weeks back. I was a good friend and didn’t tell anyone. Well, that is about to change.

HOST (OC): So, here’s something to think about before you hit send. How would you feel if the victim of the rumor was standing right beside you? How do you feel about leaving yourself open so that others would want to spread rumors or gossip about you? Spreading rumors can start a painful chain reaction that can hurt lots and lots of people.

THINGS CHANGE

HOST (OC): It’s important to remember that things change, and people change too. That’s why you have to be careful when you share confidential or sensitive information.

HOST (VO): In this next scenario, Matt and Turquoise have been dating for a few months, but now their relationship is over.

HOST (OC): As you probably already know, good solid relationships are based on trust, and respect. But sometimes good relationships turn bad, and many relationships end lots of time with hurt and angry feelings. Things change.

MATT: So, yeah, I broke up with Turquoise because I found out, like, last weekend when she couldn’t hang out with me she was hanging out with Spencer.

SAM: You’re kidding me. Where they just hanging out?
MATT: No they weren’t hanging out, they were like...

SAM: Oh my God. Really? This is the last thing I would have expected. I’m so sorry Dude, that’s awful.

MATT: It was like my birthday too. She said I had to hang out with my parents.

SAM: It was all on your birthday, and she went and hung out with Spencer?

MATT: Yeah. Apparently he’s been doing that all this time.

SAM: The entire time?

MATT: Yeah. Remember the library club she said she was part off? I figure it might not even exist now man.

SAM: Library Club? We won’t get into that.

MATT: I’m really upset. I don’t know what to do. I feel like someone’s pounded a nail into my head, like a seagull (?)

SAM: I understand, I understand. This isn’t right. We’ve got to do something. This isn’t right. No-one should treat you like that. If you let her walk all over you, someone else is going to do it next. You’ve got to prove that you can’t be that type.


SAM: You should send that to everyone.

MATT: I should. I will.

SAM: That’ll do it. No-one will mess with you ever again.
MATT: Yeah, because they know, hey, I’m not that nice. She cheated on me because I was a nice guy, you know what I mean? That’s what happens if you try to be nice.

SAM: The world hates nice guys – you have to be a jerk.

MATT: Yeah, I’m going to be just like you.

SAM: Be a jerk. You’re going to get so many girls for this.

MATT: Okay. Send to all. This is going to be good.

TURQUOISE: So I don’t know if you heard but Matt broke up with me this weekend. I get this call and he’s like, yelling at me. He said I cheated on him with Spencer or something? What are you talking about?

FEMALE: I did hear that you cheated on him with Spencer.

TURQUOISE: No, Spencer’s just a good friend of mine.

FEMALE: Well did you tell him that?

TURQUOISE: I tried to but he just wouldn’t listen and he just hung the phone up.

FEMALE: Men are really stubborn like that.

TURQUOISE: I know. It’s just really annoying because I thought he trusted me.

FEMALE: You would think. You’ve been out for a little while now. Oh my God – look. That is a lot of you that I didn’t want to see.

TURQUOISE: Why would he send you this?

FEMALE: It’s not just me he sent it to – look at the list. He sent it to, like, our whole student class. Oh you have to get back at him Turquoise. It’s okay. We’ll get back at him.
TURQUOISE: What should we do?

FEMALE: I don’t know. Tell me something about him. He must have talked about something personal. Come one – something good that will really upset him when everyone finds out about it.

TURQUOISE: You know those commercials on TV for adults who wear diapers and stuff? He wears those.

FEMALE: What!!

TURQUOISE: He wets the bed or something.

FEMALE: Did he tell you that?

TURQUOISE: Yes he told me that.

FEMALE: Oh my God, that is good. Alright. Send.

HOST (OC): As you probably already know, good solid relationships are based on trust and respect, but sometimes good relationships turn bad, and many relationships end, lots of time with hurt and angry feelings. Things change.

HOST (VO): I guess the moral of the story is that things change.

MATT: She was hanging out with Spencer.

HOST (VO): Relationships change.

SAM: You’re kidding me.

MATT: I’m not even kidding you man.

SAM: Were they just hanging out?

MATT: No they weren’t hanging out, they were like...
HOST (VO): Hurt and angry feelings can affect people’s behavior, and lots of times it’s behavior that is aimed at hurting others.

MATT: I know what I can do. You remember that picture that she sent? Oh you don’t remember the picture? Hold on.

HOST (VO): Because situations and relationships change, you have to be careful who you share confidential information with.

FEMALE: Come on, something good that will really upset him when everyone find out about it.

TURQUOISE: You know the commercials on TV or like adults who wear diapers and stuff?

HOST (OC): You will meet people who may misuse information that you share with them in confidence. Be careful of who you share private information and secrets with. Trust is not a given. It needs to be earned.

DON’T GIVE UP CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE.

HOST (OC): Technology allows you to send all kinds of information about yourself and others. It can be a great way to get to know somebody, and to let somebody get to know you. Is that good or bad? Well, it depends on what kind of information you send.

HOST (VO): In this scenario Claudia and Maisy are talking about prom. Claudia is thinking about asking a guy she likes in a special way. Let’s play it out.

MAISIE: So you have to come with me.

CLAUDIA: I will. Have you thought about who you’re going to bring?

MAISIE: Well Matt and Ralphy (?) asked me, so I’m trying to pick.

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MAISIE: Okay. Is there a reason?

CLAUDIA: I just thought he was really cute. But anyways, okay, I want to ask Spencer because—

MAISIE: Oh my God you should (INAUDIBLE) with Spencer.

CLAUDIA: I know – I heard that he wanted to go with me but he was too shy to ask, so I figured I’d take the reins.

MAISIE: You be the man.

CLAUDIA: Exactly. So I saw this really cute idea. I had a sign last night that I wrote prom on, and I took a picture holding it, and I was going to send it to him in a text. Let me show you – I want to hear your opinion. Don’t I look really cute the way that I—when in that position?

MAISIE: I don’t think you should send that.

CLAUDIA: What? Why?

MAISIE: Is this a joke? You can’t send that to him.

CLAUDIA: Why?

MAISIE: He’s going to have that on his phone.

CLAUDIA: I know. That’s why I want to send it to him. I look really cute. Look how I did my hair?

MAISIE: Claudia, I actually think you should delete that off your phone.

CLAUDIA: Why? I don’t understand what...
MAISIE: That could get anywhere. That picture could—if that goes to Spencer’s phone he could show that to all of his friends. It could get on the internet. You do not want that.

CLAUDIA: I know. But I don’t think that he’ll do that, because Spencer’s a really nice guy.

MAISIE: But it’ll be out there in media.

CLAUDIA: Yeah – Spencer will have it on his phone; he’ll see how good I look and then he’ll be, of course I want to go to the prom with her. And then we will go to the prom and have a wonderful night.

MAISIE: Don’t you think he should want to go to the prom with you without that?

CLAUDIA: I’m just trying to like, boost him in the right direction. I’m going to send it.

MAISIE: Claudia I really don’t think you should.

CLAUDIA: Well unless you give me a really good reason beside the fact that he’ll have it on his phone – because that’s the whole point of sending it – I’m going to send it.

MAISIE: Because that’s your personal you – no, I don’t think you should do it.

CLAUDIA: (INAUDIBLE)

MAISIE: You send this to Spencer on your phone, and he gets it and he’s like, oh my gosh, awesome. Because he’s a guy, and he’s great (?)

CLAUDIA: And I look really good in the picture.

MAISIE: So he gets it, and he goes this is so cool. You know what would be cool? If I showed it to all of my friends. Not because he’s not a good guy, but because he’s a guy, and all his friends are probably going to want to see him and he thinks it will make him cool. So he shows it to all of his
friends, maybe he sends it to one of his friends. He’s friends with some serious jerks. Those guys could send it to everyone who could put it online. Do you want that on Facebook?

CLAUDIA: No – I do not want that on Facebook.

MAISIE: Good, so I don’t think it should be in any form of media at all if you don’t want it out there, because it could get leaked. It doesn’t matter how but it could.

CLAUDIA: I hear what you’re saying, but I don’t think that he’s going to do that, so…

MAISIE: Claudia, Claudia, Claudia—

CLAUDIA: You don’t have any faith in Spencer – he’s a really nice guy, he’s not going to do that. And pretty soon he’ll be my boyfriend, all because of this photo of me looking amazing.

HOST (OC): So is sending especially provocative or explicit pictures an innocent flirtation, or can it be harmful? Once you hit send, you’re not really sure.

SPENCER: So I asked you guys here today because I want to ask you something. I was at home last night and I got a text message – a picture message, from Claudia.

MATT: Oh really? What kind of a picture was it?

SPENCER: I think it would be best if I just showed you.

MATT: Wow. That’s awesome.

SAM: Personal.

MATT: Oh my goodness – I have the best idea. We could like, mass send this to everyone in the football team?

SAM: Why would you do that?

MATT: Because it’s awesome.
SPENCER: Well it crossed my mind, and that’s why I needed to talk to you guys, because I’m not really sure what to do with this. I guess the point of it is she wants to go to the prom with me. See – prom.

SAM: That’s the one part of it I can look at.

SPENCER: So I guess I would just say yes, right?

MATT: And also send it to your friends.

SAM: Hold on, hold on. This is meant just for your eyes. Honestly I don’t think it was meant for anyone’s eyes.

MATT: It wasn’t meant just for his eyes. It just said prom, it didn’t say private. It just said hey, this is me, and like—

SPENCER: You’ve got a point.

SAM: Did she send it to you Matt?

MATT: No.

SAM: Did she send it to you Spencer? Does it say to Spencer? I think it’s for Spencer.

SPENCER: He’s got a point.

HOST (OC): Once a picture is out there what happens to it really depends on who the person is that gets it. And what is that person’s responsibility? How can it affect him or her? Let’s find out.

SAM: Do you realize what the consequences of having this picture could bring? (CROSSTALK). The consequences – you know, when stuff happens because of actions you take.

SPENCER: She sent it to me – I had nothing to do with this. It happened to get sent and I opened it and there it is – a surprise.
SAM: And now it’s all in your hands. If that gets out you could be in some serious trouble.

HOST (OC): The truth is that there are legal consequences. For teens, the consequences of sexting are the same for adults in most States. And though it may sound extreme, and you may think it’s stupid, sexting carries with it the possibility of being charged as a sex offender or a child pornographer. So there are legal consequences. And there are social consequences too.

CLAUDIA: Did you show him the text that I sent you?

SPENCER: No, absolutely not.

MATT: What are you talking about.

SPENCER: I would never do that.

MATT: No, he would never...why would I even want to read a text that you sent him (CROSSTALK).

CLAUDIA: Okay, stop lying, because it’s clear that you know what I’m talking about.

SPENCER: I showed it to Matt and Sam, because I didn’t know what to do with it.

CLAUDIA: Well not showing it to people is a good idea.

SPENCER: Matt and Sam are my two best friends. I thought I could go to them for some guiding light. I told them that they can’t tell anyone. I didn’t send it to anyone – I just showed them because I didn’t know what to do with it. I needed someone else’s opinion – that’s it.

CLAUDIA: Okay, we’re applying to colleges this year, and what if the colleges find out that I did something like that – or what if they see the picture? Or what if my parents find out? Or what if I lose a scholarship or something.
SPENCER: None of that is going to happen.

MATT: A scholarship? What scholarship are you going to get? You’re not exactly like a genius.

CLAUDIA: Matt, shut up.

SPENCER: Claudia none of that is going t happen, I promise, okay?

CLAUDIA: I trusted you to not send the picture, or show it to anyone.

SPENCER: The only reason I showed it to Matt and Sam is because they are my two best friends; that is the only reason. That’s it.

CLAUDIA: I can’t really believe you.

MATT: Why can’t you believe him?

CLAUDIA: Because I trusted him to not show it to you, and now you keep looking at me with that look, and it’s freaking me out.

MATT: What look? I don’t get what you’re talking about.

SPENCER: Claudia, I’m sorry. I just didn’t know what to do. That’s it. I’m sorry.

HOST (OC): The scenario we just saw was simply a case of misplaced trust and bad judgment. But the inherent danger in sexting is that the original sender opened himself or herself to a much wider exposure than intended. In the real world sexting has led to embarrassment, harassment, and worse. It’s gotten so bad for some people they decided to end their lives.

HOST (VO): So the point is, once you hit send, you’ve lost all control of what happens to the picture, where it goes, and who sees it. The question you have to ask yourself is, is it worth the risk.
HOST (OC): We now know that sending electronic messages in the form of text or images can influence and impact your life, and the life of others. It’s important to realize that once you hit send, you can’t change your mind. It’s out there, and once it’s out there, you’re not in control of that text or image any more. So think about the affect you will have on others, and how it will affect you. Think before you hit send.

END