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## EDUCATOR ANSWER KEY—BYSTANDER INTERVENTION SCENARIOS

Allow students' experience of the activity to guide the discussion. While the answer key is a guide, your students might have more dynamic, creative ways to answer the question. For the discussion, highlight that there are many different strengths that bystanders can have, including confidence, ability to distract, ability to be blunt and direct, ability to confront, ability to use humour and/or creativity to diffuse tense situations. Bystanders can be direct or indirect, serious or humorous, distracting or focusing. They can provide support that is private or public, online or in-person, escalating or de-escalating.

Social power is something that can be used to take positive action as a bystander—if you have power in a situation, it is important to use that power to intervene. If you have social power, it is likely that you will be able to set an example for others to follow. People with less access to power who are the targets of sexual violence will feel the impacts of bystander inaction because of the added impacts that come with being socially isolated, ostracized, stigmatized, and discriminated against.

### Scenario 1—Tucker and Earl



Tucker is one of the best players on the soccer team and Earl is one of the smaller, younger players. In the locker room after practice, Tucker tries to get other guys to call him “Earl the Girl.” Earl tries to get away. A few other guys changing nearby laugh loudly. They yell “Hey Earl-y girly!” while smacking Earl on the butt. Conner is the team captain and a friend of Tucker’s. He laughs uncomfortably and shakes his head.

- Conner has the most access to power because he is the team captain. Tucker has the second most access to power because he is one of the best players on the team. Earl has the least access to power because he is smaller and younger than the rest of the players. This is read as feminine and therefore undesirable by the other players.
- In the moment, Conner could distract Tucker because they are friends and he might know of ways to distract that will be effective. As the team captain, Conner could later approach Earl to check in with how he is feeling and ask Earl about what he could do to support and stop the teasing and sexual harassment from happening again.

### Scenario 2—Carly and Jeff

Carly and Jeff have been dating for 5 weeks. Carly is really popular and Jeff is new to the school. Carly calls Jeff names like “hillbilly,” “idiot farmboy,” and “country bumpkin.” She told her best friends that Jeff has to report to her every hour via text.

They also know that she made him delete all his female friends on social media. Jeff tried to break up with Carly last week but she threatened to hurt herself. They stayed together.

- Carly has the most power because she is popular and from the city. Jeff has the least power because he is new to the school and from the country. Carly's best friends have the second most power because they are friends with Carly and Carly likely trusts them.
- Carly's friends could directly address Carly's behaviour by asking her why she made Jeff delete all of his female friends. They could also turn it around and say, "that would suck if Jeff made you delete your friends!" Carly's friends could point out that maybe people in the country tease people who are from the city and if Carly moved to the country she might get teased. Her friends could point out that it probably would not feel so good to be the new kid at school and be teased by anybody, especially the person you are dating.

### Scenario 3—Dave and Easton

Dave is a transgender guy in a senior grade. Students have been very supportive of his gender transition. One day, Dave and his friend Easton (who is a cisgender guy) go to the main office for permission slips. The staff gives Easton a slip but refuses Dave, saying, "Oh, young lady. Dave is no name for a nice girl like you. Look at those pretty curves! That pretty smile!" Dave leaves the main office feeling embarrassed and infuriated. Easton and other students in the office stare in shock.



- The office staff have the most power in this scenario because they are adults who have the power over students to administer late slips, permission slips, etc. Easton has the second most power because he is cisgender and has the privilege of his gender never being questioned and always being taken seriously. Dave has the least amount of power because he is transgender and faces transphobia and cissexism on a regular basis, even when trying to do simple things like asking for a permission slip.
- Easton and the other students in the office who have cisgender privilege can distract and direct the office staff by saying, "A lot of people have unique names, why does Dave being Dave matter to you?" or "We came to get permission slips, Dave being Dave has nothing to do with why we're here" or "Dave's name is not up for debate or discussion." Easton could also delay by following Dave out of the office and asking Dave how he can support him.

### Scenario 4—Stewart and Massey

Stewart and Massey have been dating for a few weeks. They are known in the school as the first publicly gay couple. Stewart shows his friends private pictures that Massey

sends him. He says it is a “public service” since “Massey is too cute not to share.” Stewart made his friends promise that they would not tell Massey. Stewart’s older sister (who identifies as straight) found out that he has been showing off private photos of Massey. She really likes Massey and does not want her brother to ruin a good relationship.

- Stewart’s older sister has the most power in this scenario because she is older and identifies as straight. Stewart has the second most power because he has access to the pictures of Massey but because he is gay and part of the first publicly gay couple at school, he has some social vulnerability too. Massey has the least amount of power because private pictures of him are in circulation and he might have to deal with the added threat of homophobia.
- Stewart’s older sister could directly talk to Stewart about how sharing private pictures of his boyfriend without consent is not okay. She could frame this talk as being protective of Stewart because he risks ruining his relationship with Massey and potentially getting charged under child pornography laws and sexual harassment policies.



### Scenario 5—Trina

As the prom approaches, there is a rumour in a private social media group that some senior students are going to try to get Trina drunk and then take her somewhere private. It is not explicit what will happen after that. Trina does not have many friends and is not well-liked by many students. About 15 people have been invited into the private group.

- The students in the private social media group (especially the students that started the group) have the most power because they are popular enough to garner support from other students for their plan. Trina has the least amount of power because she does not have many friends and is not popular.
- Students who are in the private social media group could anonymously delegate by involving a teacher, guidance counsellor, social worker, or other adult that they trust to help shut down the private social media group and provide appropriate consequences to the students that started and are most involved in the group. By getting an adult at the school involved, they can shut down the social media group, create a safety plan with Trina for the prom, and put explicit school policies in place to help prevent sexual violence and challenge rape culture.