

SPLIT DECISIONS



Overview

Students will watch the video “Split Decisions” to see how the decision to either engage in digital drama or resolve the conflict can lead to very different outcomes. Students will then list the positive and negative behaviors they saw in the video and compare their lists to demonstrate how developing conflict resolution skills can lead to more positive results.



Materials / Preparation

- Computer connected to an LCD projector
- Video – “Split Decisions”
- Chalkboard/whiteboard



25 minutes



Activity

Ask students: *Have you ever had a fight with someone online or seen friends sending others mean or angry messages? Did it help to resolve the conflict or make it worse?* Allow students to discuss, but encourage them not to share friends’ names or specific details.

Tell students that they are going to watch a video to see how two teen girls handle a conflict they’re having both on- and offline. Show the video “Split Decisions.” Point out how Lily and Gabriela’s different decisions led to very different outcomes. Replay the video if students need help recalling details of the split screen stories.

Draw a line down the center of the chalkboard. Label the left side “Positive” and the right side “Negative.” Have students list all of the positive behaviors they saw in the video. For example, on the left side of the screen, Lily calls a friend when she’s angry.

Then have students list all of the negative behaviors they saw. For example, on the right side of the screen, Lily sends several harsh messages to Gabriela.

Ask students to compare their lists:

- *Which side led to a positive outcome?* (The left side.)
- *Why?* (Because both Lily and Gabriela tried to resolve their conflict. They were willing to listen to each other and treat each other with respect.)



Follow-Up

Ask students to write a paragraph about a time when they had a conflict with a friend, either online or offline. What are some ways they could have handled it differently? Encourage them to think of 2-3 things they could have done to resolve the situation in a more positive way.