

Introduction to Consent- 7th Grade Virtual Activity

WISE is an organization that supports people who have experienced abuse and violence. WISE educators spend a lot of time in schools talking with students about these issues so that people know that it is not okay and that they deserve help. We also want to think with young people about how we can create a world without violence. When WISE visits 7th graders, we spend our time talking about sexual violence and consent.

Sexual violence is any behavior (physical, verbal, pictures, online, etc.) that is sexual and unwanted or without consent. Sexual violence can happen in person and also online or through technology. To make sure that nothing unwanted happens, we have to get consent. **Consent** is permission for something to happen or an agreement to do something. When it comes to our bodies and our relationships, permission is only the beginning.

ACTIVITY: Read the scenarios and answer the questions about consent.

Hannah and Matt are watching Netflix on the couch. Matt asks Hannah if she wants to cuddle. She replies saying, “I don’t know, maybe?”

What are some reasons that someone would say “maybe”?

Why might Hannah not want to cuddle?

What could Matt say next to make Hannah feel more comfortable?

Robin asks Taylor to kiss. Taylor says “sure”. His arms are crossed and he is looking over his shoulder when he says it.

Does it seem like Taylor really wants to kiss? Why or why not?

What could Robin say next to make Taylor feel more comfortable?



Charlie and Jill are walking home holding hands. When they arrive at Jill's house, Jill wants to kiss Charlie goodbye.

How do we know that Jill does not have Charlie's consent?

Why might Charlie want to hold hands and not want to kiss? (Feel free to be creative!)

Where have you seen a good example of clear consent in a movie, TV show, Tik Tok, or meme? Provide the link or describe it below in a couple sentences.

What WISE wants you to remember about consent:

Talk! Consent means that we have to have a conversation. It might feel awkward at first, but we deserve to have relationships with people who we feel comfortable having the awkward conversations with. Plus, everything is a little awkward when we first start having relationships. The more we practice, the easier it gets! If you don't feel ready to talk about consent or the thing you want consent for, it might mean that you aren't ready to do it.

Pay attention! We communicate a lot with our body language and tone of voice. Body language, tone, and verbal language all need to be saying "yes" in order for us to have someone's consent.

Consent is enthusiastic! If we are unsure or confused about how someone is feeling, it means we don't have consent.

Consent is caring! We care about other people and want to make sure they're just as excited as we are. We always try our best to make other people feel comfortable and safe with us.