

## Gateway Activity: Scenarios

Within small groups students will read the following scenarios, which all have to do with someone coming into conflict with an authority figure. Once all group members have read the four scenarios then, **as a group**, they will *rank the scenarios in order of what characters they approve of most*. For example, if they find the mother in scenario one the most approving with then he would get a 1 and the next character they find would be the second-most approving and get a 2, and so on. *All four scenarios must have a ranking, and there are no ties*. Once all the groups have decided on their ranking we will turn to the whole class, share, and discuss the reasons groups chose what they chose.

The scenarios I have here are more “place-holders.” I will be pulling articles from the recent news that are will either be on the subject of conflict with technology and/or conflict with government.

- 1) While a mother and her young daughters are playing in the park, a group of older kids arrive and begin to play roughly and listen to loud music. The mother, concerned that her children could be injured, asks the police for help. The young people proceed to disrespect and argue with the arriving officers. Finally, one of the teens is given a citation for his unruly behavior. *Character: the mother*
- 2) A teacher prevents Venu from coming into her room because he is breaking the school rule against wearing coats to class. After Venu refuses to comply with his teacher’s wishes to put his coat away, she refers the matter to an administrator. Venu continues to argue with the vice principal, and when told he can either put his coat in his locker or go to the office, he angrily storms out of the building. *Character: the teacher*
- 3) Ms. Thomas, a fourth grade teacher, taught a holiday lesson in December which included a brief historical review of Christmas, a discussion of art memorializing the birth of Jesus Christ, and a study of Christmas carols in the designated music period. Ms. Thomas also told the class about Hanukkah, the Maccabee warriors and the menorah oil that lasted eight days, and passed around a dreidel to help the class understand the Jewish holiday. The parents of James Mitchell, a Muslim student in her class, complained to the principal that Ms. Thomas only included Christianity and Judaism in her holiday lesson, and ignored their child's faith completely. *Character: the teacher*
- 4) Every day afterschool Eva comes home and turns on her favorite video game: World of Warcraft (WOW). Her mother is worried that Eva is not getting the exercise she needs to be healthy, because she is spending all her time inside. Eva’s mother is also concerned that Eva will not develop her social skills. Eva states that she has P.E at school and feels like that will keep her healthy. Eva also states that she gets to talk to all her friends

during their WOW games, which is the way she likes it. Eva's mom is still contemplating taking away her daughters games. *Character: the mother*

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