College Scenarios

Discussion/Role-Play Questions

Please arrange yourselves into groups of 3-4 students each. Read the question aloud and discuss possible alternatives to the problem. If you desire, you may act out the scenario with your group members.

Grades 4-8

1. Prior to entering college, Jimmy was always a straight A student and involved in many extracurricular activities such as the basketball team, chess club, and student government. Jimmy just completed his first semester in College. He ended up receiving a 2.0 cumulative GPA (which is equivalent to earning C’s and D’s.) Unfortunately, Jimmy has not gotten involved in any activities, skips classes very frequently and attends parties at least 4 nights a week. He begins to wonder why he’s performing poorly in school. What should you tell him?

*College is a big change for most students and it takes time for them adjust. Jimmy needs to realize that students go to college to get an education. Having fun is important but must be done in moderation. Jimmy needs to take a step back and learn how to balance his academics with his social life. Once he begins this process, his grades will improve.*

2. Your sister comes home from college for the weekend and you overhear a conversation she’s having with her roommate. You hear that her roommate was caught with illegal drugs in their dorm room last night. You begin to wonder if your sister participates in the same illegal activities. Should you talk to your sister? If so, about what?

*You should talk to your sister and find out exactly what the conversation was about. Explain that you are not trying to “tell” on her but you are concerned about her well-being and college education. If your sister does use illegal drugs, you should tell a parent and get her some professional help.*

3. Sarah constantly complains about the students being too loud in her dorm. She says they keep her up all night. What should Sarah do?

*Sarah should contact her Resident Assistant, the student living on her floor who oversees the other residents. Sarah should explain her problem and the Resident Assistant will address the issue. If the problem persists, Sarah should contact her Residence Director.*

4. Tyler comes home for Thanksgiving break and looks much thinner than he looked when he went off to college in the fall. He complains that the food at school is gross. His parents notice that he doesn’t eat much while at home and seems unhappy. What should Tyler’s parents do?
It seems that Tyler has developed an eating disorder. Tyler’s parents should talk to him about trying to get back on track. His parents may want to hire some professional help in order to prevent this problem from getting worse.

5. Nick’s parents opened up a bank account for him before he went off to college. They agreed to place increments of X amount of dollars each month into the account for Nick to purchase food, clothes, and school supplies. However, Nick seems to pester his parents earlier and earlier in the month for more money. What should Nick’s parents do?

In this type of situation, communication is crucial. Although it is difficult to communicate on a daily basis, students need to make time to communicate with their parents. Developing a budget might help differentiate between needs and wants when they have the freedom to spend their parents money any way they choose.