

# Taking Perspectives on Cyberbullying

How does online cruelty affect the people involved?

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## Words to Know...

- Perspective: the view or outlook of someone, based on their thoughts, feelings, experiences, and background
- Target: a person who is the object of an intentional action
- Offender: a person who intentionally commits acts to hurt or damage someone
- Bystander: a person who passively stands by and observes without getting involved
- Upstander: a person who supports and stands up for someone else



## Perspective...

- Have you ever had a conversation with someone where you had a different point of view? What happened? How did you feel?
- Why is it important to understand someone else's perspective?



# “Friday Night Lights” Meet the characters.

- Lyla: head of the cheerleading team. Her boyfriend was the football team’s quarterback. She recently cheated on her boyfriend with another football player named Tim.
- Brittany: Lyla’s alternate on the cheerleading team. She set up a website where she and others at school slam Lyla.
- Tim: a player on the football team. Secretly dated Lyla while she dated his friend.
- Tami: the school’s guidance counselor.
- Ben: Brittany’s father
- Buddy: Lyla’s father



# “Friday Night Lights” video clip

<https://www.common sense.org/education/videos/friday-night-lights-video-clips>

- At the beginning of the clip, Lyla finds slut written on her locker. Later, she finds the ‘slam page’ and sees that she’s been called a slut online. What do you imagine that Lyla was thinking when she saw the website? How is this similar to or different from seeing “slut” written on her locker at school?
- Lyla starts to tell Tim, “It’s different for girls. You can sleep around all you want and people think it’s cool. I make one mistake — and it was a mistake ...” Lyla doesn’t finish her sentence; what do you think that she was trying to say? Do you agree with her point that girls and boys are judged differently?
- Brittany’s dad, Ben, goes to see Lyla’s dad, Buddy, to tell him about the website. What do you think about Ben’s decision to reach out to Buddy, to apologize, and to tell him about the site?
- Buddy goes to check on Lyla, he doesn’t mention the website — even though he knows about it. Do you think that he should have said something to her about it? If so, what could he have said or done to help?
- Lyla tells Tami that she was thinking, “Let them talk, let them say what they’re gonna say, and I’ll just tough it out.” What do you think about this approach? What are some advantages or disadvantages of handling the situation this way?



# Lesson Wrap-up

## Discussion & Assessment

- What should you think about before you post anything about another person online, in a text, or any other digital message?
- Someone posts a picture of your friend with some nasty comments, and other kids make fun of him/her. What would a bystander do in this situation? What would an Upstander do? What would you do?