

Monica

Planning

Facilitator Discussion Guide

EYFP

Synopsis

Layla briefly joins Monica and Cameron for lunch and asks Monica to cover for her that afternoon. Layla reveals that she lied about having cheerleading because she was going to help her friend Shauna find a missing dog. Monica reluctantly agrees to help, at which point Layla leaves.

Cameron notices Ms. Stephanie, the 4-H Agent, who had a meeting at their school. Ms. Stephanie invites Cameron and Monica to visit her office the following afternoon to talk about Cameron's service project idea.

The next day, Monica and Cameron meet with Ms. Stephanie after school. Ms. Stephanie asks Monica and Cameron to create a plan for the 4-H Club to consider before committing to the service project.

Facilitator Notes

This episode aligns with Sessions 3-5 of the Powerful Families, Powerful Communities curriculum. The goal of this discussion guide is to help participants reflect on decision-making.

Opening

Think about a time when you had to convince someone to help you. How did you get them to do what you wanted? As we watch today's episode, pay attention to how characters try to influence one another. After we finish watching, be ready to share the name of the character whom you think is the most influential character in this episode.

After Watching the Video

After the video, facilitate a discussion with the group. Begin by reminding the group of the expectations set during Session 1.



Vocabulary Alert!

An **influencer** (say “in-floo-ens-er”) isn't just a job on social media. Anyone who can get another person to think, say, or do things is an influencer. Some of the strongest influencers for youth are their caregivers, family members, friends, and trusted adults in the community. Who are the most important influencers in your life?

Peer pressure is one way that youth influence each other. Peer pressure can be helpful, like when youth and their friends work together to study in school. However, it can also be dangerous if youth feel like they have to make unhealthy choices. Learn more about peer pressure at go.ncsu.edu/nihpeers.

Continued

Round-robin Question

It is important for everyone to contribute to this question as a way to build trust and practice listening. You can choose to go in a circle or let participants “popcorn” respond. Options that don’t involve speech include holding up a piece of paper with a name written on it or letting people raise their hands to vote as you call out characters’ names.

Who do you think had the greatest influence in this episode? Right now, just tell us the character’s name. We will talk about why you selected that character after everyone has shared their choice.

Comprehension Questions

These are suggested questions. It is not necessary to ask every question in this list. Participants may answer some of the questions before you ask them, or they may bring up their own questions to explore. As a facilitator, your job is to listen far more than you speak. In general, ask a new question only if conversation has hit a dead end and 30 seconds of silent time doesn’t break the stalemate, or if you sense the discussion veering into unproductive territory. You may also want to ask follow up questions if a participant makes an interesting point that no one else takes up spontaneously. Finally, if you have some very vocal participants, you may need to occasionally break in to invite quieter participants to speak or to repeat a point that might have gone unheard.

Tell why you picked that character.

Talking Tips

Youth may have difficulty with identifying motivations, especially for Cameron and Ms. Stephanie in Scene 1. “Inner Voices” is an improvisation strategy that might help. In the “Inner Voices” strategy, youth act as the character’s inner voice and say what the character is thinking. You can see a variation of this strategy at <https://youtu.be/7083R-bJspE>.

- How do the characters try to influence each other to get what they want?
- In Scene 1, what are some of the things Layla does or says to influence Monica?
- Why does Layla say that she thinks Max might have been hit by a car?
- To what extent does Monica try to influence Layla? Explain.
- In Scene 2, what are some of the things Monica does or says to influence Ms. Stephanie?
- What were some things a character tried that successfully influenced another character?
- What were some things a character tried that were not successful at influencing other characters?
- What are examples of positive or negative influences in this Episode?

Continued

Closing Questions

There are three closing questions. The first question asks participants to apply their ideas to the fictional story shown in the video, while the second question asks them to expand and generalize. Finally, the third question asks participants to personalize their ideas and apply the same principles to their own lives. Participants may spontaneously ask one another the first or second question, but be prepared to ask it if they do not.

- Layla wants to help Shauna find the missing dog, and she needs Monica's help to do so. Under what circumstances, if any, can someone who is acting for good, moral, or altruistic reasons be a negative influencer?
- Under what circumstances, if any, can someone who is acting for bad, dangerous, or selfish reasons be a positive influencer?
- How can you use your influence in positive ways?