



Think First

Objectives:

Students will:

- Respond to various peer pressure scenarios
- Explore possible positive and negative outcomes
- Enhance their decision-making skills

Materials:

- Computer with Internet access
- “Think First” handout, pen or pencil

Class Time:

- 40 minutes

Activity:

Whether it’s preschoolers playing in a sandbox or grannies having tea, one thing’s for sure: Friends influence friends. The trick is to know when that influence is leading you down the wrong path instead of the right path - and then to have the courage to do something about it.

Today, we’re going to take a look at five examples of peer pressure. For each, we’re going to determine the **problem** (what is being asked of you), the possible **consequences** (both the good and the bad), and what action you think you should take. Afterward, we’ll discuss your responses. Which of these decisions were the easiest to make? Which were the hardest?

Extension:

Ask for volunteers to role-play a few of these scenarios in front of the class. Practice different ways of refusing to go along when you know you’re being pressured to do something wrong.

Reproducible Materials

Handout: Think First

KidsHealth.org/classroom/3to5/personal/growing/peer_pressure_handout1.pdf

Quiz: Peer Pressure

KidsHealth.org/classroom/3to5/personal/growing/peer_pressure_quiz.pdf

Answer Key: Peer Pressure

KidsHealth.org/classroom/3to5/personal/growing/peer_pressure_quiz_answers.pdf

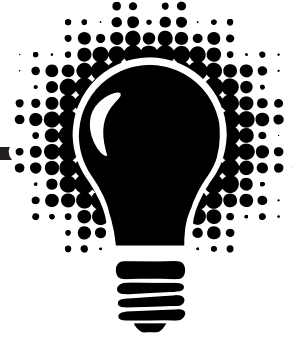


Name: _____

Date: _____

Think First

Instructions: Here are five peer pressure situations. For each situation, use the chart below to think about whether it would be a good idea to follow along or not.



Problem: What does my friend want me to do? Is it something good or bad? Kind or mean? Healthy or unhealthy? Legal or illegal? Is it something you would do if your parents were watching?

Consequences: What could happen if I do it? Imagine any possible good results: Will you learn something positive? Will you be helping someone? Imagine any possible bad results: Can you get hurt? Can you get in trouble? Can someone else get hurt or in trouble?

Action: Should I do it? Will you be proud of your choice afterward? Would your parents be proud of your choice?

1. You're studying for tomorrow's quiz when some of your teammates come by. They want you to shoot some hoops with them. "You're not going to nerd out on us, are you?" they ask.

Problem:

Consequences:

Action:



Name: _____

Date: _____

2. You're at the store, wishing you had enough money for some candy. Your friend says, "Just take it! It's no big deal. The clerk's not even looking."

Problem:

Consequences:

Action:

3. Your friends are trying to get you to try out for the school musical, but you're not sure you have the guts. "Come on, do it! You have a great voice," they say. "We'll be there to cheer you on."

Problem:

Consequences:

Action:



Name: _____

Date: _____

4. Your friend asks to “borrow” your homework - again - because he didn’t do it last night. He says if you don’t give it to him, you won’t be invited to his party this weekend.

Problem:

Consequences:

Action:

5. You’re playing video games with your friends when one of them mentions a 5K race that’s coming up. You’ve never run a race before and aren’t sure you should start now, but your friend says, “I bet we can do it. Look, I printed out this training plan. Let’s start tomorrow.”

Problem:

Consequences:

Action:



Name: _____

Date: _____

Quiz

1. Peers are:

- a) people about your own age
- b) classmates
- c) teammates
- d) all of the above

2. In “peer pressure,” the word pressure means:

- a) hurting
- b) pushing
- c) influence
- d) ignoring

3. True or false: Peer pressure is always bad.

4. Fill in the blanks: When friends try to influence you to do things that are harmful or wrong, it’s called _____ peer pressure. When friends try to influence you to do things that are helpful or kind, it’s called _____ peer pressure.

5. True or false: Only kids and teens have to deal with peer pressure.

6. List two things kids might do to try to get other kids to do what they want: _____
_____.

7. List two reasons why kids might give in to peer pressure: _____
_____.

8. List two ways friends can be a bad influence on each other: _____
_____.

9. List two ways friends can be a good influence on each other: _____
_____.

10. True or false: People can influence each other without even speaking.



Quiz Answer Key

1. Peers are:

- a) people about your own age
- b) classmates
- c) teammates
- d) all of the above

2. In “peer pressure,” the word pressure means:

- a) hurting
- b) pushing
- c) influence
- d) ignoring

3. True or false: Peer pressure is always bad.

4. Fill in the blanks: When friends try to influence you to do things that are harmful or wrong, it’s called negative peer pressure. When friends try to influence you to do things that are helpful or kind, it’s called positive peer pressure.

5. True or false: Only kids and teens have to deal with peer pressure.

6. List two things kids might do to try to get other kids to do what they want: Any two of the following: tease, call names, threaten, say they’re not cool, exclude from group, ignore, etc.

7. List two reasons why kids might give in to peer pressure: Any two of the following: to seem cool, to seem brave, to get in with a group of friends, to impress others, etc.

8. List two ways friends can be a bad influence on each other: Any two of the following: they can encourage each other to smoke, drink, cheat, lie, steal, bully others, act lazy, act disrespectful, not do their homework, etc.

9. List two ways friends can be a good influence on each other: Any two of the following: they can encourage each other to work hard in school or sports, try a positive new activity, believe in themselves, exercise, read a new book, be kind, be honest, etc.

10. True or false: People can influence each other without even speaking.