

Silent Voices

Synopsis

Drew and his sister are having a party on a weekend when their parents are away. Drew's girlfriend, Katelynn, shows up after her soccer practice to be with her boyfriend. Katelynn is worried that Drew has drunk too much, but still agrees to let him drive her home. On the way, they run a stop sign, striking an innocent man on his way home from work. Katelynn's mom happens to be driving by the collision site when she recognizes Drew's car, and stops to discover that her daughter has been killed. Jessica and Drew are sent to jail. The driver who was hit by Drew suffers a broken back and is paralyzed. Drew and Jessica are sentenced in court, Drew for drunk driving and Jessica for providing alcohol to minors.

Questions to ask before viewing

1. With Mom and Dad away for the weekend, is it okay to have a party involving alcohol?
2. Is Jessica wrong for supplying alcohol to minors, even though it is done on her parents' private property?
3. Would you get into a vehicle with a drunk driver? Why or why not?
4. Whose lives will be changed as a result of the drinking and driving?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. Was Jessica concerned about her brother's drinking and driving? (She seemed a little concerned, but it appeared that Drew had been drinking and driving before.)
2. What happens to Jessica as a result of supplying alcohol to minors? Is her sentence fair or too harsh? (Jessica is sentenced to prison. By supplying alcohol, she contributed to the collision, Katelynn's death, and the other victim's permanent injury.)
3. Did you know that, not only Jessica and Drew, but their parents as well are responsible for the crash, even though the parents are away? Why do you think this is so? (The parents are responsible for the actions of their children as long as they are living at home.)
4. Is it a good idea to get in a car with a drunk driver? If not, why? (You have a 9 times greater chance of dying riding in a car with a drunk driver.)
5. How would you handle a drunk driver if he/she wanted to leave the party? (Offer him/her a place to stay, call a cab, call parents, take the keys, or call a law enforcement officer.)
6. Was the driver in the other vehicle responsible in any way for the crash? (No, he was just on his way from work, and did not see Drew run the stop sign.)
7. What sorts of things will change in the other driver's life now that he is paralyzed? (He will need wheel chair ramps; he will not be able to go up or down stairs; he will have to use a car designed with hand controls for paralyzed drivers.)
8. Was Drew's sentence too harsh for killing his girlfriend? (No)
9. Was Jessica really responsible for Drew's collision? (Yes. She supplied alcohol to minors and left her keys for Drew to pick up at any time. Also, Drew had told her he was going to drive Katelynn home, and she didn't try to prevent his drinking at the party.)
10. After viewing the video, how do you think your parents would react if they came upon a crash scene while driving and found you — their son or daughter — dead in the car? (Talk about the harsh reality of people walking up to crash scenes and seeing an injured - or dead - friend, mom, dad, brother, or sister.)

Length

20 Minutes

Subject areas

Driver Education/DUI

Audience level

Grades 9-12, Adult

Catalog number

#2681-EN-VID-SG

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Discussion Guide

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Objectives

- Students will understand the dangers of getting into a vehicle with a drunk driver
- Students will see the emotional effects on a mother at the scene of a crash
- Students will understand the consequences of buying alcohol for minors
- Students will witness what happens when a person is booked into jail



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