Respectful Voices

Directions: Read each scenario carefully. Then write a short opinion paragraph explaining what you think the most respectful and fair response would be. Use reasons and examples to support your view.

1. Online Teasing vs. Freedom of Speech: A student posts a "funny" meme about a classmate, saying it's just a joke. Others laugh, but the classmate feels hurt and embarrassed. The poster claims it's their right to express themselves online.

Prompt: Should freedom of speech allow online jokes about others? Explain how to balance self-expression and respect.

2. Group Chats and Peer Pressure: A group chat turns negative when people start sharing rude comments about a student who isn't in the group. You are part of the chat but didn't post anything.

Prompt: Should you stay silent or speak up when teasing happens in private chats? Explain your reasoning.

3. Humor in the Hallway: During passing time, a group of friends teases someone's outfit, saying it's "all in fun." The person laughs nervously but looks uncomfortable.

Prompt: When does teasing stop being funny? Write your view on how friends can use humor without hurting others.

4. Reporting or Overreacting?: You see a classmate being mocked in a school group chat. You think about reporting it to a teacher, but others say you're "overreacting."

Prompt: Is it ever wrong to report teasing or bullying? Defend your point of view with reasons.

5. Public Comments and Private Feelings: A student writes a sarcastic post about a teacher's mistake. Many classmates agree it's "no big deal," but others say it crosses a line.

Prompt: How should students express frustration or disagreement respectfully online? Explain what responsible posting looks like.

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