

It's time ... to speak up in your community

Sarah (21) and Emily (22)

Sarah and I have been friends since our freshman year of college. So, when we graduated, we decided to move to the same city. We had a list of things we wanted to do when we arrived and started our new jobs. One thing we had to do was to see our first Major League Baseball game.

Our friends told us we had to get there early so we could see the teams walk onto the field for the first time, buy a "real" hot dog and smile big for the "fan cam."

The game was awesome and the fans were wild about the team. At first, we were having a great time. But then, some guys behind us started to make comments. At first, it wasn't too bad. We tried to ignore them, but the more they drank, the ruder they got. They wanted us to sit with them, to sit on their laps, and their comments just got more disgusting after that. We told them to stop, but it just seemed to encourage them more.

Activity

Create a network map of WHO might be involved in this situation and WHAT they can do. Turn page over for answer key.

Answer Key

Directions

First, brainstorm the people who are in a position to say or do something.

Below, some examples:

- Sarah and Emily
- Friends of the men harassing Sarah and Emily
- Other fans who can hear what is going on
- Security staff

Then, brainstorm what they might be able to do.

Note: Each person has a number of options.

Sample of suggested responses

For Sarah and Emily

- Ask the guys how they would feel if they were their younger sister, or some other way to let them know you are serious about telling them to stop
- Ask someone next to Sarah and Emily to also say something to the guys
- Move seats if that is possible
- Tell the guys you will call security if they continue to harass you
- Call security

For friends of the men harassing Sarah and Emily

- Tell your friends that they just crossed the line and this is no longer funny
- Distract your friends with other things (e.g., going to get some food, figuring out the designated driver, etc.)
- Go sit with Sarah and Emily and tell your friends that this is now a no harassment zone
- Offer to help Sarah and Emily find better seats (if that is possible)

Other fans in the bleachers who can hear what is going on

- Ask Sarah and Emily what they would want you to do and offer some options if they are not sure
- Step into the "conversation" if you see that they are not being listened to
- Tell the young men that the girls were clear that they did not want this attention and their comments are inappropriate
- Offer to help Sarah and Emily find better seats (if that is possible)
- Tell the men you will call security if they continue to harass Sarah and Emily
- Call security

Security guards

- Ask Sarah and Emily if they need help
- Tell the men that they are violating the stadium rules and give them a warning
- Check the ID's of each of the men and if they continue to be inappropriate, ask them to leave
- If they are under 21, call their parents
- Escort the men out of the stadium