



Case Study #3: Test Preparation

Cindy's stomach turned as she thought about taking her literature test. She had studied quite a bit, but still wished she had more time to review her notes.

As she was worrying about the test, she almost ran into her friend Jose. "Hey—watch out! You almost ran into me, Cindy!"

"Sorry about that," Cindy said. "I was just thinking about the literature test this afternoon."

"I know what you mean," commented Jose. "I just can't get that stuff."

As he said this, another friend of theirs, Ryan, joined the discussion. "Are you guys talking about the Lit test this afternoon?"

"Yeah...on top of the test, we also have to suffer through history class right before it. I heard we have a heavy in-class assignment. Mrs. O'Leary is supposed to do a computer presentation in there today," Jose added.

Cindy grumbled, "Too bad the network isn't down today. It always seems to go down when we want to use the computers. Just this once, it'd be nice for the teachers to be out of luck."

Ryan thought about this for a minute, "Well, it turns out that I know a way to change Mrs. O'Leary's password. We could change it just before fourth period. Then, she wouldn't be able to do the presentation. That would give us just enough time to study for the Lit test."

"I don't know about that," says Cindy. "I like Mrs. O'Leary. I don't want to mess with her computer."

Jose jumped in, "Well, it would only be temporary. She could get a new password at the end of the day. And she wouldn't be losing any files. Can you do it, Ryan?"

"No, I don't have access to a computer before fourth period. But you do, Cindy! You could do it from the library during your study hall. I could give you step-by-step directions on how to do it. It'd only take a couple of minutes."

Cindy responded quickly, "Oh...I don't know."

"You'd be helping us all, Cindy" Jose added. "Everyone would be grateful!"

The bell for first period was about to ring. Ryan finished scribbling the directions down and thrust them into Cindy's hand. "Here they are. Thanks for doing this!"

Cindy stared down at the directions as she walked toward the library. She didn't know what to do.

Discussion Questions:

- What should Cindy do? Why?
- What is the issue in this case?
- If Cindy changed the password, would that be wrong? Why/Why not?
- If Cindy changed the password, would that be trespassing? Why / Why not?

