

TRUTH BE TOLD—SAMPLE RESPONSES

What specific words or phrases did you highlight, and why did those stand out to you? How do they contribute to the speaker’s tone or attitude?

Conversation 1	Conversation 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Ugh, yeah. Apparently, Mark’s been cheating on Jess. What a winner.": The sarcasm in "What a winner" sets a tone of disdain and mockery, emphasizing Teen 2’s low opinion of Mark.• "Make him wear a sandwich board that says 'Cheater.'": This phrase is humorous and exaggerated, contributing to a tone of playful, yet intense frustration.• "Pit of shame," "drama of the year," and "throw him in a pit of shame": These phrases emphasize the group’s mix of humor, anger, and desire for justice, creating a tone that is both lighthearted and serious.• "We’re going to make sure Jess knows the truth and that Mark gets a dose of his own medicine.": This phrasing highlights a sense of justice and loyalty to Jess. <p>These phrases convey a mix of sarcasm, humor, and moral indignation, aligning the teens’ attitude toward loyalty and fairness while also showing their camaraderie.</p>	<p>“cheating,” “beyond furious,” “consequences,” “cornered,” “wake-up call,” “closure”</p> <p>These phrases highlight intense emotions, a sense of moral urgency, and determination to act. They stand out because they convey the speaker’s anger and the seriousness of the situation. Phrases like “wake-up call” and “consequences” emphasize accountability, while “closure” reflects empathy for Jess.</p>

How does the speaker’s word choice help establish their credibility or authority with the audience?

Conversation 1	Conversation 2
<p>The informal, conversational tone—evident in phrases like "pathetic choices," "play dumb," and "reality check"—makes the dialogue relatable to their peers. It establishes their authority by showing they understand the dynamics of teen relationships and loyalty. Their unified stance against Mark’s behavior also portrays them as a cohesive and credible support system for Jess.</p>	<p>The use of decisive and confident language, such as “handle this cleanly and thoroughly” and “set this up,” shows the speakers taking control and planning methodically. This assertiveness helps establish credibility by demonstrating that they are thoughtful, organized, and committed to justice. Their insistence on gathering evidence and ensuring Jess is fully informed reinforces their responsibility and reliability.</p>

How do the words and phrases used appeal to the emotions or values of the audience? What effect do you think the speaker intended?

Conversation 1	Conversation 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The humor (e.g., “sandwich board,” “pit of shame”) lightens the serious topic, making it less confrontational while still holding Mark accountable. • The emotional appeal (e.g., “Jess deserves way better”) connects with values of fairness and loyalty, evoking sympathy for Jess and anger toward Mark. • The intended effect is to unite the audience (their peers or Jess herself) against Mark’s behavior while reinforcing their role as protectors of fairness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words like “unacceptable,” “deserves,” and “support” appeal to values of fairness and justice. • Emotional phrases such as “beyond furious” and “full weight of his actions” aim to align the audience emotionally, inspiring indignation toward Mark and solidarity with Jess. • The intended effect is likely to elicit anger and a desire for resolution, while also evoking compassion for Jess.

In what ways do the context and purpose of the piece influence the speaker’s language choices?

Conversation 1	Conversation 2
<p>The context—teens discussing a relationship conflict—shapes their casual, expressive language. The purpose of planning how to address Mark’s behavior drives their use of direct, action-oriented phrases like “confront Mark” and “plan this out.” Their focus on loyalty to Jess and group solidarity informs their playful yet decisive tone, ensuring their approach feels both supportive and empowering.</p>	<p>The context—a betrayal and the need to support a wronged friend—drives the emotionally charged and justice-focused language. The purpose is to plan a confrontation that balances accountability for Mark with closure for Jess. This dual goal influences the speakers to use both assertive and empathetic language, ensuring their message resonates with both Jess’s needs and their shared values of loyalty and fairness.</p>

What is the speaker’s primary message, and how does their choice of words reinforce or clarify that message for the audience?

Conversation 1	Conversation 2
<p>The primary message is supporting Jess by exposing Mark’s disloyalty and ensuring he faces consequences. Words like "truth," "closure," and "reality check" clarify their intent to advocate for justice and provide emotional support. The humor and playful exaggeration ensure the message resonates emotionally with their peers, keeping the conversation relatable and engaging while reinforcing their commitment to their friend.</p>	<p>The primary message is that Mark’s actions are unacceptable and must be addressed decisively to provide justice for Jess and ensure consequences for him. Words like “severity,” “evidence,” and “serious repercussions” clarify their intent to act with fairness. By emphasizing “support,” “truth,” and “closure,” the speakers underline their commitment to Jess’s well-being while highlighting the importance of accountability.</p>