

ACTIVITY 3

Drugs + Your LIFE: It Isn't Pretty



In addition to the health risks to the brain and body, abusing drugs can place people in situations that put them at risk for other types of harm. Consequences can include accidents or injuries from driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, acquiring a sexually transmitted disease, having an unwanted pregnancy, and the deterioration of personal relationships. These effects impact not just individuals, but also families, friends, or total strangers.

Think It Through: A *causal diagram* is a tool to help chart possible outcomes that can result from decisions or incidents. The causal diagram below includes a scenario about drinking and driving. Part of the diagram has been completed. On separate paper, answer the A, B, and C questions in the context of where they appear in the diagram. Also, fill in the blanks in the diagram with possible outcomes. Make sure your answers are realistic and that each outcome could logically lead to the next outcome.

- What is a possible negative outcome from this decision?
- What could happen to the girls and their families or even a total stranger if your outcome for A happened?
- What could be one outcome if B happened?

Mina and Penny are sophomores in high school. Most Friday nights they stay in and watch movies, but tonight Jenny has invited them over. Jenny's brother, who has just graduated college, is also home with a few friends. One of them offers the girls alcohol. Not expecting it, the girls hadn't thought about what they would do if there was alcohol at Jenny's house, and even though they are only 16, they are flattered by the offer.

