

Toolkit Case Responses "How Far Are You Willing to Go?"
A High School Arts Student

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ❖ How does Heather define excellence?
- ❖ What are Heather's arguments in favor of plastic surgery? Would it enable or prohibit excellence in acting?
- ❖ What are the beliefs and values that guide Heather in her decision-making?
- ❖ In your work, do you ever feel that achievement or success is based on something else besides talent and skill? Is this fair?
- ❖ What are your personal boundaries and limitations for how far you are willing to go to succeed in your work?
- ❖ Are these boundaries and limitations ever threatened? By what?

RESPONSES:

- Heather defines excellence as being a working actress because of talent and skill; not looks.
- Heather thinks that plastic surgery would help her get a role. She believes that, although she wants a role based on talent, plastic surgery will enhance her chances of getting noticed and getting a role. It would prohibit excellence in acting because then she can never be sure if she gets a role because of her looks or her talent.
- Heather doesn't believe in plastic surgery and she values being a good actress over looking good. However, she also really wants to make it as an actress and knows that in our society good looks are extremely important.
- Yes, I feel that in sports sometimes a person makes a team because they look better in the uniform. I don't think this is fair because the person that is more skilled in the sport should make the team regardless of how they look.
- I will not change who I am, mentally or physically, to succeed. If I cannot succeed looking as I do or feeling as I do then maybe the thing is not for me.

I feel that these boundaries are threatened sometimes in social life. There are many pressures to fit in and be perfect. I however am not perfect and

sometimes I, as all people, get ridiculed because of it. I don't want to change who I am so that I won't be laughed at but sometimes I feel