

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 successful, talented and not being penalized for the way she looks. Excellence is her very best.
- Heather's thought in favor of plastic surgery is that she knows that in the entertainment business, being attractive certainly never hurt anyone. She notices that pretty girls get casted over her. I don't think it would help her reach excellence in acting because you don't have to be pretty to be talented. It may help her career but not her skills.
- Heather's beliefs are that professionalism is key, and that she can learn from her directors and teachers even if she doesn't agree with what they're saying. Also, she will not take roles that she is not comfortable with until the time is right.
- Sometimes whether a teacher likes you or not may have an effect on how you are graded. This is not fair because your grade should be for how hard you work and how well you do.
- I am not willing to lie, cheat or steal to get to the top. The people who deserve to be the best generally are, and if they don't deserve it than I wouldn't want to be them anyways.
- These boundaries and limitations are threatened when you really want something. Sometimes it is hard to do the right thing. You may want something so badly you "would do anything" to get it, but you must go back and remember your limitations.