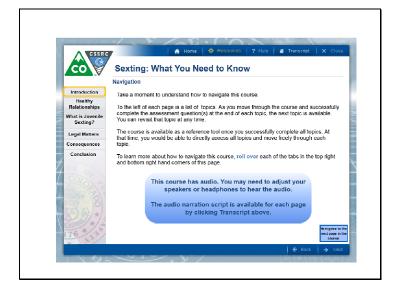


"This course, Sexting, What You Need to Know, is brought to you by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, an office of the Colorado Department of Public Safety. It is in keeping with the Five Preparedness Missions of the Center: to prevent youth from engaging in high risk behavior; to mitigate the damage caused by that behavior; to protect victims, potential victims, and offending youth; and to properly respond and help the community recover. This course was created to comply with Colorado Revised Statutes section 18-7-109(5)(c). It is designed as a tool for use by the courts and schools to help juveniles understand the elements of healthy relationships and avoid the serious legal, academic, financial, and social consequences that result from sexting conduct. More comprehensive interventions may be required to manage higher level offenders, but completion of this course is designed to satisfy programming requirements for juveniles who have exchanged sexually explicit images."

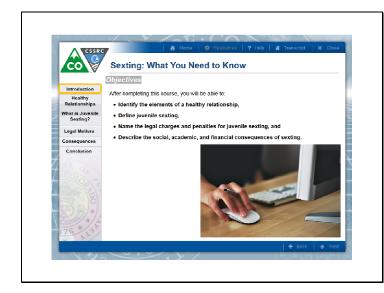




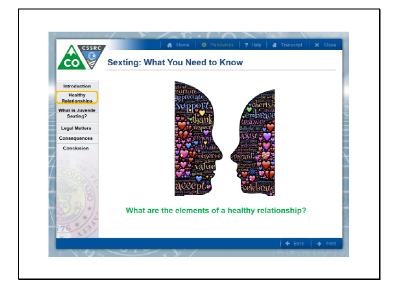
"Take a moment to understand how to navigate this course."



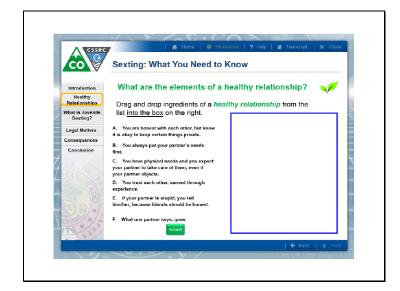
"The Colorado School Safety Resource Center was established by legislative directive in 2008. Its mission is to assist local schools and communities to create safe and positive school environments for all Colorado students in all pre-K through grade 12 and higher education schools. The Center provides free consultation, resources, training and technical assistance to foster: Safe and secure learning environments, Positive school climates, and Early intervention to prevent crisis situations. Please contact the Center for more information.



"Sexting: What You Need to Know is designed to help you recognize and establish healthy relationships so you can avoid illegal and abusive behavior. Please review the objectives for this module. Click "Next" when you are ready to proceed."



"To understand why sexting is a risky and sometimes illegal behavior, you have to start with the basics. What is a healthy relationship? The answer applies to all relationships, not just romantic ones. To some, the answer is easy—it means that we value and respect each other's thoughts, emotions, values, and bodies. To others, it can be very confusing. Can jealousy just mean he loves me really deeply? Once I commit, does she have the right to my body? To run my life? These are good questions. Let's take a look at them."



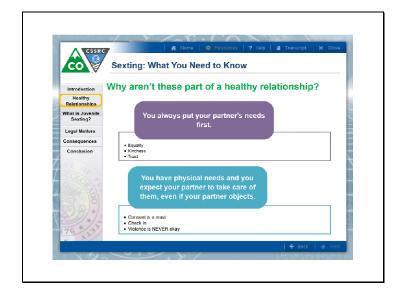
"See if you can spot some identifiers of healthy relationships. Healthy partners can talk openly about problems. They listen to each other, hear each other's concerns and share each other's happiness, but know that they are independent from each other. Certain things can and should be kept private—things like passwords, security codes, and criticism that isn't needed to support the relationship. Partners in a healthy relationship trust each other after trust is earned over a period of time. Trust comes from consistent kind and respectful behavior toward one another. Each partner treats the other with equality and the same standards. Jealousy of time spent with other friends is not trust. Controlling the phone, social media accounts, or bank accounts of your partner is not healthy. It's abusive."



"Let's look at some of the factors that didn't fit. Click on the buttons to learn healthier ways to conduct yourself in a relationship. At first, you might think it is healthy to always put your partner's needs first. What's wrong with that? While it's a nice idea to be considerate of others, if you are always putting your partner's needs first, that means you are putting your own needs behind theirs. Remember that a good relationship is based on equality, kindness, and trust. Some compromise is natural, but no partner should always have to be the one whose needs are not being met. Consent is required for any physical interaction, and can be taken back at any time. What's consent? It's another word for permission."



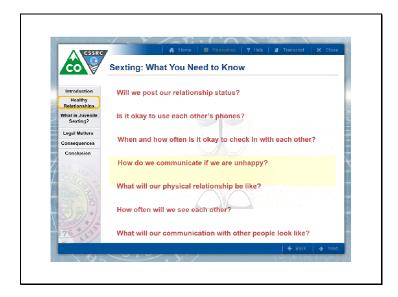
"It is natural and normal to want good communication and intimacy in romantic relationships. Consent for sexual activity must always be a sober, enthusiastic 'Yes!' Consent isn't something that just girls give. People of all genders have the right to control their own bodies and make decisions for themselves. A decision to accept a dinner or a date is not consent to have sexual contact. Dressing sexy is not permission to touch, or have sex. Dating someone, even marrying them, does not entitle a person to ownership of another person's body. And consent to kiss is not the same as consent to have sex. Silence is not consent, and consent is never forced or assumed. It is freely given and it needs to be communicated every time. And keep in mind that people can and do change their minds. They can take their consent away. Also, consent to do something once doesn't mean you or your partner consent every time. That is why communication is so important."

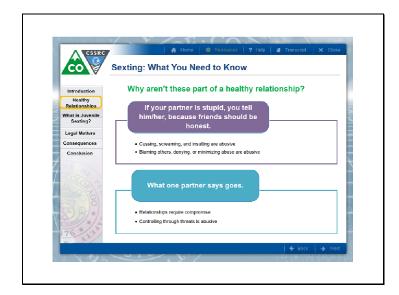


"So how do you know if you have consent? Ask! Check in. Say, 'Is this ok?' 'Are you comfortable?' It doesn't have to be weird. Silence isn't consent, so communicate. Violence is never acceptable, and no partner ever has the right to force a partner to do anything to or with their body that makes them feel uncomfortable, unhappy, or unsafe. Sexual contact that is unwelcome is abusive and illegal."



"Discussions about relationships bring up the issue of boundaries. What are boundaries? Pretty simple. It's what you think is okay or not okay in your relationship. Nobody can define your boundaries for you, but you should consider your deal breakers and communicate them. Abuse and violence should always be deal breakers. That said, here are some things to think about. Will we post about each other? What about access to phones and checking in with each other? How do we communicate if something needs to change? What about our physical relationship? Maybe we should talk about our expectations for how often we will see each other, and how we continue our relationships with our other friends."

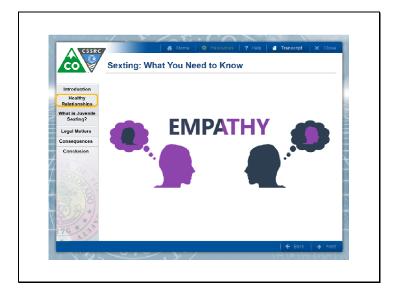




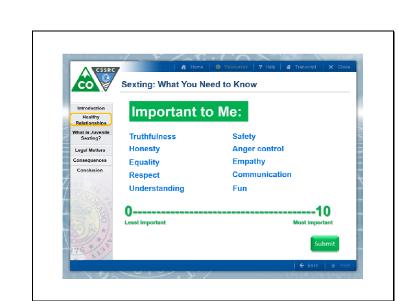
"Let's look at some of the other factors that didn't fit into the idea of a healthy relationship. Click on the buttons to hear why they aren't healthy signs. Remember all that stuff about being honest in a healthy relationship? That doesn't extend to insults or demeaning words. A relationship cannot be healthy if there is screaming, cussing, or threatening during disagreements. People who really care about each other don't ever engage in physical violence. These behaviors are abusive. If one partner blames the victim for their own violence, that is abusive. Healthy people take responsibility for their behavior and don't deny it or minimize what they've done. Relationships of all sorts require compromise and sacrifice. If one person controls the other partner through threats or hostility, that is abusive. Trying to get your way all of the time is not healthy or mature. Partners must see their lives and decisions as equally important, try their best to make decisions together, and hold each other to the same standards."



"These behaviors can occur in person or online. See if you see any unhealthy behaviors in this video."



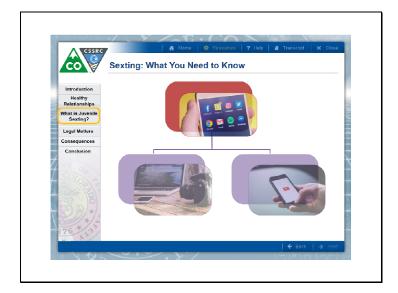
"We know, the phone and fashions were a bit out of style, but hopefully you saw that it can be necessary to set firm boundaries to prevent an imbalance of control. All of the qualities of a healthy relationship lead to empathy. In its simplest form, empathy is the ability to understand another person's feelings. See through their eyes, hear through their ears, feel with their heart. Easier said than done, right? Empathy is a critical element of successful relationships—social, romantic, in families, and even in business. In the video, for example, the guy didn't seem to get--at all--how annoying and controlling he was being. He showed no concern for the girl's feelings. He lacked empathy."



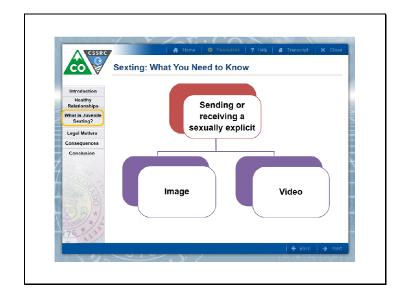
"Now that you've heard about healthy relationships, what is important to you? On a scale from 0 to 10, with 10 being the most important, drag the words along that scale. Click 'submit' when you are finished. "So now that we have a good understanding of what makes relationships strong and healthy, what does that have to do with sexting? Everything. Sexting is always risky, and sometimes illegal. If we have solid boundaries and empathy for our partner, we shouldn't put them at risk. That is the opposite of a healthy relationship."



"Let's back up. In the interest of good communication, we can't talk about juvenile sexting without a common agreement on the definition."



"Click on the photos to hear more about the legal definition of juvenile sexting. Juvenile sexting is the sending or receiving of sexually explicit images or video on an electronic device. As you will hear later, not every exchange of sexually explicit images is juvenile sexting under the law. An exchange could fall under felony child pornography laws. The image can be a still photo of any person at least 14 or less than four years younger than the juvenile, that is sent or received on a phone, computer, tablet or other electronic device. It can be sent through text, email, or any social media platform like Instagram or Snapchat. Any time someone 18 or over is involved, the exchange is no longer covered by the juvenile sexting law. The same is true of a video clip. If it is sexually explicit and sent or received by juveniles through an electronic device, it could be juvenile sexting."

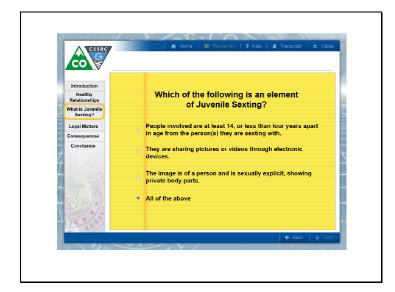




"What does that mean?? What's a 'sexually explicit image'?"



"Basically, if the picture exposes this, this, or this (including the butt), it is prohibited by the law. The swimsuit zone is off limits. If you bare it, don't share it!"



"Let's review. What is juvenile sexting? You have heard descriptions of juvenile sexting conduct—see what you remember. This is a multiple choice quiz with one answer. Which of the following is an element of juvenile sexting?" Audio for A: "Juvenile sexting laws apply to people at least 14 years of age, with less than a four year age difference between them. Are there other correct responses?" Audio for B: "Sharing on and through electronic devices is an element of juvenile sexting. But do you see any other correct answers?" Audio for C: "To qualify as sexting, the shared image must show real people and be sexually explicit. Is there anything else?" Audio for D: "Good job. This is the best answer. Juvenile sexting occurs when people who are at least 14 but under 18, or less than four years younger than the person they are sharing with, share pictures or videos with electronic devices. To fall within the statute, the pictures must be sexually explicit."



"We know the law can be confusing, but we are going to break it down for you. Stay with us, because this could save you from getting into trouble. Even if you already are, this could help you stay out of more trouble in the future."

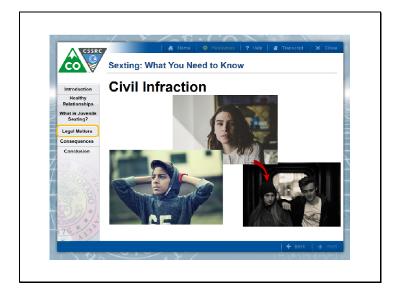




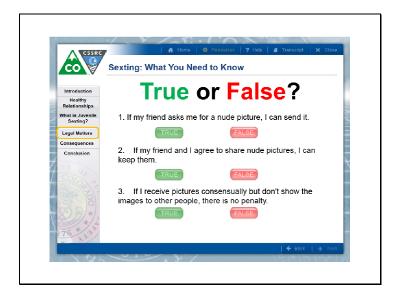
"The juvenile sexting law looks a bit like a pyramid. The lowest level is called a civil infraction. Let's take a look at that."



"A juvenile could be charged with a civil infraction if he or she sends an explicit image of him or herself to another person who wants it, or keeps a picture after they receive it. That's right, even if all parties agree, that is, they consent, it's still a civil infraction. The penalty for a civil infraction is participation in an educational prevention program (like the one you are taking now) or a fine of up to \$50."



"Here's how it might look in real life. Here is a group of friends. From left to right, Ryan, Sunny, Jade and Alex. Sunny and Jade are 17. Sunny sent a nude picture of herself to Jade on her phone a few weeks back. Sunny was reenacting a celebrity pose she saw online. She sent it because Jade thinks it's funny and asked her to share it. Jade didn't delete it. She and Sunny look at it and laugh every once in a while. Even though they consented to share the picture, by law they have both committed a civil infraction."



"See if you have an understanding of the law. Answer these true or false questions by clicking on the correct button." Answer to Question 1: "This is false. Even if your friend asks you for a picture, it is a violation of the law to send it if you are under 18. By the way, friends don't ask friends for nude pictures." Answer to Question 2: "Correct. Even if you and your friend consent to share pictures, it is against the law. You can't send or receive them, and you can't keep them if they are sent to you." Answer to Question 3: "That's right. Even if you consent to sharing images and don't show them to anyone without permission, you are still in violation of the law and can face a penalty. If you ever receive pictures without your consent, it's not your fault and you won't be in trouble."

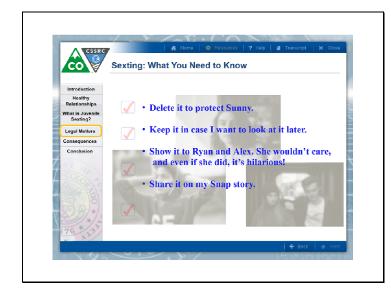




"Moving up our pyramid in the legal system, the next most serious charge after a civil infraction is a petty offense. Let's take a look at some facts that could result in a petty offense."



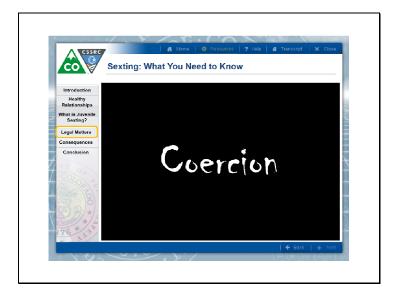
"The thing that separates a Petty Offense from a civil infraction is *consent*. Having a nude pic is never a good idea, but if you get it and keep it without permission, it's criminal. The reason is that you are invading the privacy of the person in the picture. Remember that funny nude picture that Sunny shared with Jade a few weeks back? Imagine that without Sunny's permission, Jade shares the picture with their friends Ryan and Alex. Ryan is 15 and Alex is 17. If Ryan and Alex don't report the image to law enforcement (including a school resource officer) or delete it within 72 hours of seeing it, they have committed a Petty Offense. The penalty for a petty offense could be a fine or probation. If Ryan or Alex are collecting pictures, they could get into worse trouble. The Petty Offense can be raised to a Class 2 misdemeanor if either of them has 10 or more separate images of 3 or more different people. That bumps the penalty potential up to include a fine, detention, probation, or other conditions."



"Remember Sunny sexted with Jade. At this point they have committed a civil infraction. Put yourself in Jade's shoes. What should you do? Click on the box next to one of the options to see what might happen if you made these choices." A Audio: "Good choice. This is not only a good idea to keep your friend safe, but you as well. Deleting the picture within 72 hours of seeing it protects you under the law. All this changes if you receive an image you didn't ask for or that you specifically refused, especially if the picture is of an adult. Don't delete or forward those images, but report them to law enforcement to protect yourself and others. Do the same if anyone is hounding you to send them pictures. You don't have to put up with that. Tell an adult that you trust and ask for help. If you have one, your school resource officer can help you." B Audio: "As we already went over, if you keep the picture longer than 72 hours, you have committed a civil infraction, even if Sunny doesn't mind. Not a good choice." C Audio: "If you keep it, show it, or send it to anyone else without Sunny's permission, you have now committed a criminal offense. You have violated Sunny's trust and opened her up to public humiliation and serious consequences. She trusted you and you betrayed her. You can now face serious legal penalties." D Audio: "Posting someone's image to a public site is a very serious offense. Even if you think your Snap story fades away after 24 hours, others can take screen shots (or take a picture of a screen with a separate device) and share the picture widely. Nothing you share is ever 100% secure. You could face the most severe legal consequences, up to and including a felony, depending on the circumstances. As you will see, you can cause damage to yourself and to Sunny that you cannot take back."



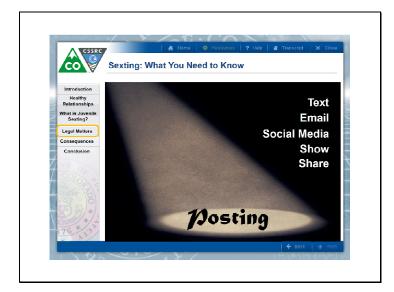
"An affirmative defense means that even if you did the thing you are accused of, it is not criminal under the circumstances—self defense is one example. You've just heard that deleting an image or reporting it to law enforcement or a school resource officer within 72 hours of seeing it are affirmative defenses to a juvenile sexting charge. So what are two things you can do within 72 hours so you won't be in trouble if you receive a sexual image of another juvenile?" Answer audio: "You are correct. To avoid criminal responsibility, you must report the image to law enforcement or delete it within 72 hours of seeing it. Understand that this defense only applies to situations in which teens who are at least 14 years old are sharing images with other teens less than four years younger than they are. If adults share images with teens, that is a criminal act by the adult and must be reported. It is never your fault when this happens. Never delete those images. Take them to law enforcement or a trusted adult immediately. If you need help, ask an adult you trust."



"Another affirmative defense to any charge of juvenile sexting is coercion. Coercion means that you were forced, threatened or intimidated into creating or sharing the image. If that happens, get help immediately from an adult you trust. If someone is pressuring you nonstop, or anytime someone 18 or over contacts you, get help! The law protects you if you are coerced."



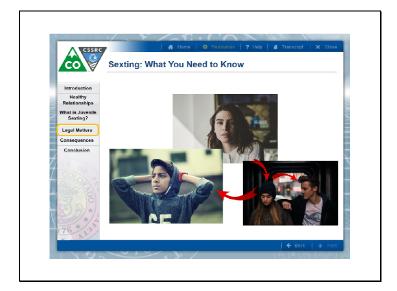
"You've seen how a petty offense can convert to a misdemeanor. Other sharing, referred to as 'posting', is a misdemeanor outright under the law. That is the most serious charge under the juvenile sexting law. What is 'posting'? The word sounds like making something public, or shining a spotlight on it."



"Posting can be a bunch of things. All of them are criminal and abusive. Posting includes sending an explicit picture or video by text, email, Instagram, Snapchat, or any other social media platform. It even includes simply showing your device to another person with the image exposed. Any time you share an image from a device that you don't have permission to share, you are posting. That includes posting a picture of someone who thought their behavior was private or couldn't consent—in the shower or while they weren't conscious, for example. You are harming the person depicted in the picture."



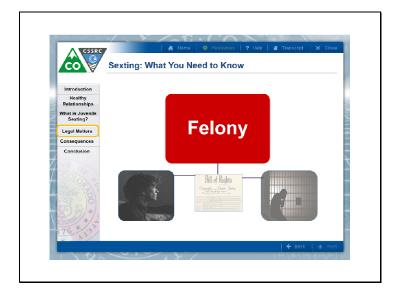
"Click on the button to learn another way that posting an image is criminal." Audio 1: "Just as you can't show your private parts to people without their consent, you cannot send a nude photo either. If a juvenile does that without permission, it is also posting. Getting an explicit picture like that can cause someone to feel fear and violation. That is called emotional distress. That's why it's a crime. Never ask someone to send pictures, and never send them yourself. If you don't heed that good advice, certainly never send pictures without permission. Remember that even if you have permission, sending them is a civil infraction."



"Remember our friends? When Sunny sent Jade a nude picture, they had both committed a civil infraction. Jade then shared with Ryan and Alex. Ryan and Alex were in possession, so committed a petty offense. But what about Jade? She betrayed her friendship with Sunny when she shared that picture without Sunny's permission. In the least, she's not a good friend. In the eyes of the law, she's a criminal. Jade could be charged with Posting, a Class 2 Misdemeanor. Sunny could have prevented harm by not sharing her image, but Jade's betrayal is not Sunny's fault. Jade chose to keep and share the image. It could get even worse for Jade. If she posted the picture to cause emotional distress, or to threaten or intimidate Sunny, she could be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor (that's the highest misdemeanor charge and carries a heavier penalty). Jade could also be charged with a Class 1 if she had already been through the criminal justice system on a prior sexting case, or posted 3 or more images of 3 or more different people. You can see that the worse the behavior gets, the higher the charge and the worse the penalty."



"Outside the juvenile sexting laws, parties can be charged with a felony. A felony is the most severe crime that can be charged. Murder and rape are felonies. So is possession of child pornography, which is called sexual exploitation of a child. Prosecutors cannot charge a felony if the juvenile's conduct is limited to the elements described earlier, but can and will charge it if child pornography laws have been violated."



"Click on the pictures to learn more about the consequences of being found guilty of a felony."

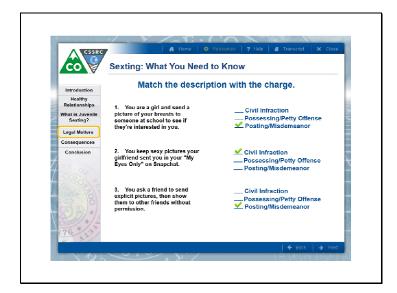
"People who are found guilty of a felony can be made to register on the Sex Offender Registry, maybe even for their whole life. That restricts where they live and work, and with whom. They might not even be able to live with their younger brothers and sisters. They also have to tell people they have committed a sex crime when they date or apply for jobs. You can imagine how well that goes over."

"Adults and juveniles who have committed a felony may lose their right to go to school where they want, apply for financial aid for college, serve in the military, have a gun, or vote. Many professions (teaching, for example) will not license someone who has committed a sex crime. You could lose your family's ability to live in public housing or receive food benefits. If your immigration status is in question, you could be deported. Even if you don't care about any of that, know that law enforcement will confiscate your phone. Forever."

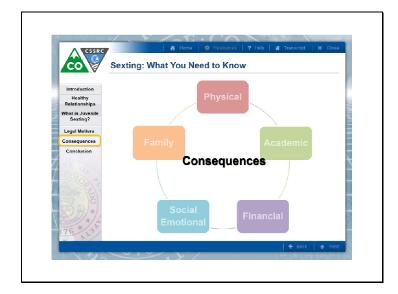
"Courts have a full range of penalties for juveniles who have committed this felony, from years of detention to probation with strict conditions."







"See if you remember the different types of charges in the sexting law. Assume you are under 18, but at least 14 years old and within four years of the person you are sharing with. Click on the line on the right that best matches the story on the left." Audio 1: "Posting/misdemeanor is the best answer. You can't send nude pictures to people without their consent. The best way to keep yourself safe is to never send naked pictures, especially if you don't know if the other person wants them. You could really disturb them. Try talking to them instead." Audio 2: "The best answer is probably 'Civil Infraction' since you have both consented to share pictures. If you break up and she asks you to delete them, she has taken away her consent and you must delete them. If you don't, you are in possession without her permission, and risk a petty offense. Audio 3: "This is classic posting, a misdemeanor."



"The legal consequences for sexting are bad. But there are other consequences that may matter even more, because you have value far beyond your legal status. You can avoid these by not creating nude images in the first place. Click on the boxes to hear how sexting can effect your well-being. Family Audio: "Sexting doesn't only effect you and your partner. It can make your family and friends victims as well. Parents, friends, brothers and sisters could be shamed or bullied if your pictures are shared. Your parents will be quite distressed if your images become public. If you don't want your grandma to see your picture, don't share it." Physical Audio: "You are important and you want to protect yourself. If you or your friends sext, you make yourselves more vulnerable to bullying if your images get out. You deserve to be healthy and safe and we know that students who are bullied are more likely to have poor physical health, to harm themselves, and to have thoughts of suicide. Victims of sexting have reported anxiety, depression, panic, and substance abuse. If you are facing any of these problems, look to the resources in this course, or talk to a trusted adult. There is help for you." Academic Audio: "How about school? Students who are humiliated by having their privacy violated are less likely to do well in school. They are less likely to even want to attend. The aftermath of sexting can mean dropped grades, lossed activities, even dropping out. It all adds up to lost dreams. It is hard to get into college these days, and a criminal record can make it much harder. Financial Audio: "Remember all that legal stuff we talked about? That all costs money. Fines, court costs, lawyers. It's expensive. That's separate from dollars potentially lost because you can't apply for financial aid for college, get that scholarship you were hoping for, or join the military. And don't forget the cost of the phone that was just taken away. There is also the consideration of your lost income if you can't pursue the career you desire, and your parents lost income because of legal tangles and restrictions.

Social/Emotional Audio: "Sexting places you at risk to have others betray your trust. You can take steps to prevent that betrayal by making smart digital choices. Don't sext. And don't ask for pictures, either. If your image is shared without your permission, you could face shame and humiliation. That could affect your friendships, your employment, and certainly your school environment."



"Sexting is a behavior that can cause harm if others violate our sexual privacy. Click on the circles to hear some suggestions to prevent that from happening." Red Audio: "It's a good idea to check your phone in at night to charge with a parent or caretaker. You will be less tempted to be secretive with your phone, and you'll get more sleep." Green Audio: "Never ask others for nude pictures. There are plenty of ways to say 'no' to people who send you pictures you don't want, or ask you for pictures you don't want to send. Here are a few:













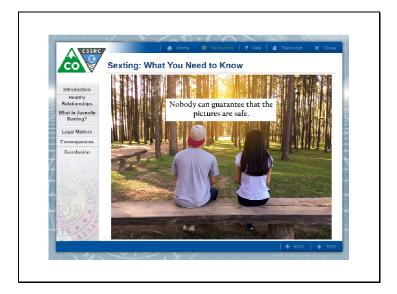














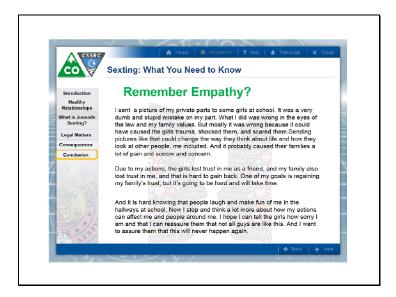












"Back in the beginning of this course, you heard a lot about healthy relationships, communication, kindness and empathy. Remember empathy? It is the ability to understand and respond to the feelings of another. Now that you know why sexting might create problems for you and your friends, let's see how it impacted a real person, here in Colorado. You might be expecting to hear how a betrayal of trust feels, but you already know that. This statement came from someone who was caught sending unwanted pictures to others." "I sent a picture of my private parts to some girls at school. It was a very dumb and stupid mistake on my part. What I did was wrong in the eyes of the law and my family values. But mostly it was wrong because it could have caused the girls trauma, shocked them, and scared them. Sending pictures like that could change the way they think about life and how they look at other people, me included. And it probably caused their families a lot of pain and sorrow and concern. Due to my actions, the girls lost trust in me as a friend, and my family also lost trust in me, and that is hard to gain back. One of my goals is regaining my family's trust, but it's going to be hard and will take time. And it is hard knowing that people laugh and make fun of me in the hallways at school. Now I stop and think a lot more about how my actions can affect me and people around me. I hope I can tell the girls how sorry I am and that I can reassure them that not all guys are like this. And I want to assure them that this will never happen again."

"He understands and owns the harm he caused, not just to the people who were made to look at the images, but their families and his community. He appreciates how difficult it will be to rebuild his reputation as a person worthy of trust, and expresses true regret for the damage he caused others. That is empathy."





"Congratulations on finishing this course on what you need to know about sexting. Follow the instructions on this page to receive your certificate."