

Role-play Situation: Student-Student, “Extra Help”

Have two people read the scene. Then discuss the situation as a group, using the questions on the back.

Marissa and Lauren get back an essay from their professor...

Marissa: Ugh, that was awful!

Lauren: It wasn't that bad... but it was really hard. I didn't want to get it back, to be honest.

Marissa: I did so badly on the essay. I don't understand why...

Lauren: Well, the professor said the writing center is always open, or else you could just go to her for help. She's really helpful actually. I went in to see her.

Marissa: And it helped your grade?

Lauren: Yeah, she was totally into making sure I understood everything. She'd make a great Mom.

Marissa: Does she have kids?

Lauren: Who knows. She's pretty and young, plus her boobs are huge, so I'm sure she'll get married soon anyway.

Marissa: Ha ha, I guess so... Maybe if I go see her she'll be sympathetic. Maybe I'll tell her how much I've had to do lately and that there's a lot on my mind and she'll cut me some slack.

Lauren: Either way, I'm sure it'll help.

Marissa: Yeah, maybe.

Lauren: You have to admit though, even if you don't like her teaching, her clothes are awesome. I wouldn't be brave enough to wear that if I was a professor. Most of my other female professors just wear ugly pants-suits.

Marissa: Ha ha... yeah I liked her shirt.

Lauren: Yeah, that shirt was hot. She's like a young hip professor. She's more like your friend than professor, really. Like a big sister or something who's looking out for you and will help you when you screw up, but is also there to like, hang out, and talk whenever.

Marissa: You know, I guess I should go see her. I'm going to go back and see when she's free.

Lauren: Okay, good luck. See you!

Marissa: Thanks, talk to you later!

Questions:

1. What did you notice in particular about this conversation, and why?
2. What assumptions *about the professor* underlie specific statements by the two people?
3. What assumptions *about women* underlie specific statements by the two people?
4. Unpack the specific statement, “Yeah, she’d make a great mom”.
 - i. Can you imagine this statement being made by a Skidmore student?
 - ii. Would an equivalent comment be made about a male professor? If so, what might be said?
 - iii. What does it say about women professors?
 - iv. How might this statement influence the way the professor is viewed by someone who hears the conversation?
 - v. Might the statement change classroom dynamics in the future?
 - vi. Does Lauren’s attitude affect the campus climate? Does it change the way individual students might interact with faculty, one on one?
5. Unpack the specific statement, “She’s pretty and young, plus her boobs are huge, so I’m sure she’ll get married soon anyway.”
 - vii. Can you imagine this statement being made by a Skidmore student?
 - viii. What does it convey about women?
 - ix. How might Marissa feel *about herself* when Lauren said this? About women professors?
 - x. How might the conversation have been different if the professor were a man? What statements might have been made?

5.

- i. Can you imagine this statement being made by a Skidmore student?
- ii. Would a similar comment be made about a male professor? If so, what might be said?
- iii. What does it say about women professors?
- iv. How might this statement influence the way the professor is viewed by someone who hears the conversation?
- v. Might the statement change classroom dynamics in the future?
- vi. Does Steve's attitude affect the campus climate? Does it change the way individual students might interact with faculty, one on one?