

POP CULTURE

Discussion Guide



Presented By
Domestic Violence Crisis Center

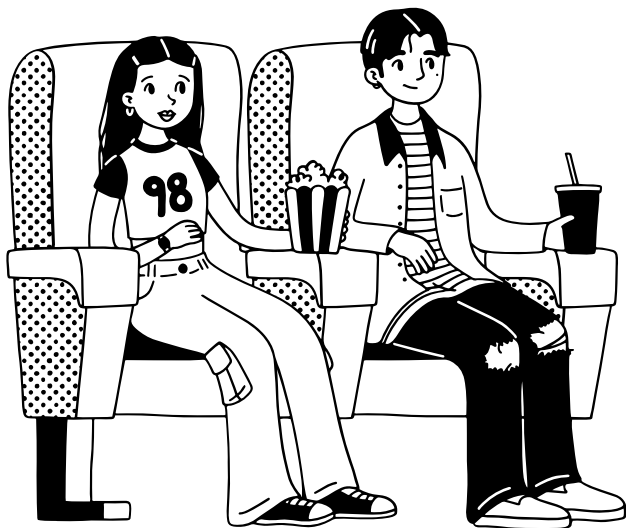
A black and white clapperboard graphic is positioned in the bottom left corner. The text on the clapperboard reads 'TEEN DATING VIOLENCE' at the top, 'FEB' in the center inside a heart shape, and 'AWARENESS MONTH' at the bottom.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE
FEB
AWARENESS MONTH





Pop Culture Guide: Watch With Awareness



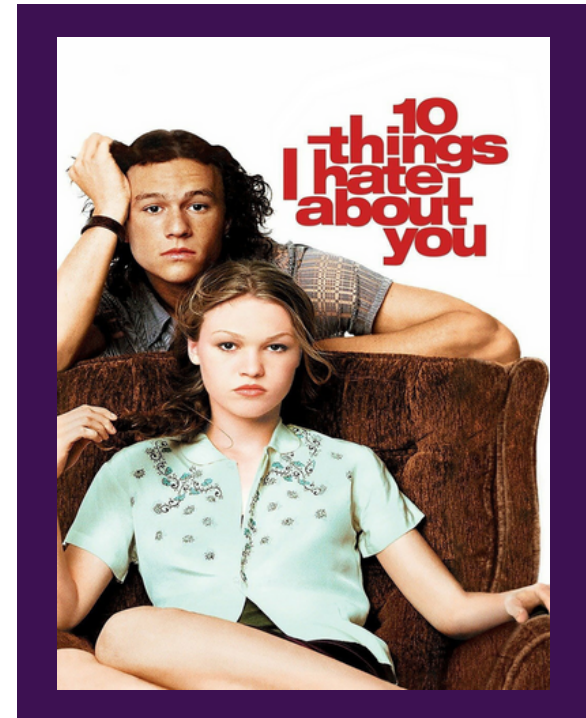
The media we consume shapes how we think about relationships. This discussion guide uses pop culture as a fun and practical tool to start a conversation about healthy and unhealthy relationship dynamics.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month is about learning, not judging, so don't feel bad if you spot one of your faves on our list. The goal is to watch with awareness and use this guide as the first step to becoming a more critical consumer.

10 Things I Hate About You

A high-school boy, Cameron, cannot date Bianca until her anti-social older sister, Kat, has a boyfriend. So, Cameron pays a mysterious boy, Patrick, to charm Kat.

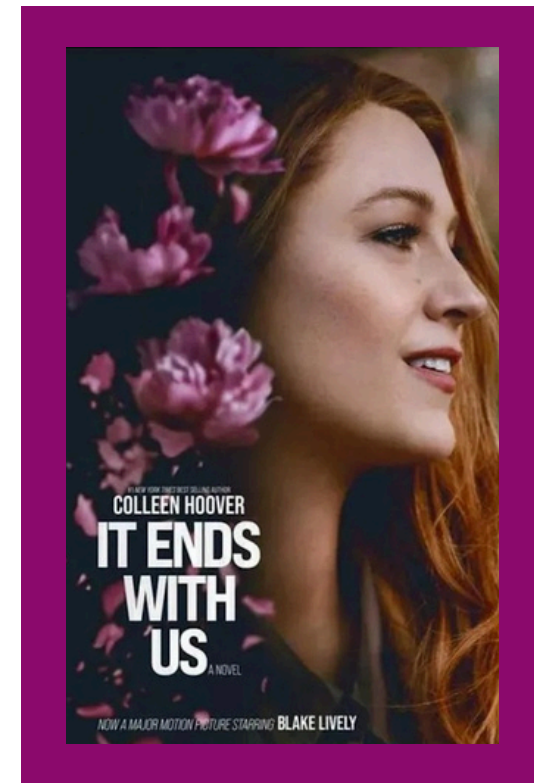
- Patrick attempts to win Kat back by hiring the marching band and publicly serenading her. How would you feel if someone did this in real life? Would it feel romantic or like they were crossing a boundary?
- Patrick initially pursues Kat because Cameron paid him; however, eventually, he falls in love. If someone lied to you as a means to get into a relationship, would you be able to forgive them and continue dating them?
- Instead of apologizing for lying, Patrick buys Kat a guitar. Would gift-giving or grand gestures be enough to forgive someone, or would you prefer they take responsibility?
- Though released in 1999, this movie has recently regained popularity. If it were remade today, what parts of the movie do you think would change?



It Ends With Us

Based on the 2016 novel by Colleen Hoover, this film follows florist Lily Bloom, whose troubled relationship with neurosurgeon Ryle Kincaid is compounded when her high school sweetheart Atlas Corrigan re-enters her life.

- Lily and Ryle’s relationship does not start out abusive, but it becomes unhealthy over time. What are some “red flags” or unhealthy behaviors that you noticed throughout the film?
- How does Lily’s relationship with Atlas differ from her relationship with Ryle? What are some “green flags”, or healthy behaviors displayed by Atlas?
- After Ryle pushes Lily down the stairs, we see him tending to Lily’s injuries. Why do you think Ryle chose to take care of Lily’s injuries himself, rather than taking her to the hospital or calling an ambulance?
- It takes time for Lily to end her relationship with Ryle. When Lily asks her mother why she stayed with her father, her mother responds, “It would have been harder to leave, and I loved him.” What are some reasons someone might stay in an abusive relationship?
- Lily witnesses abuse in her parents' relationship. How might her childhood experiences shape her future relationships? What is the significance behind the title, “It Ends With Us”?



Sierra Burgess is a Loser

Sierra Burgess is a socially awkward high school senior who struggles with her self-image. When a popular boy named Jamey mistakenly texts her, thinking she's another girl, Sierra decides to keep up the charade.

- Sierra “catfished” Jamey by pretending to be Veronica; however, after discovering Sierra’s real identity, Jamey still takes her to the dance. If this movie took place in real life, do you think it would have the same ending?
- During the film, Jamey thinks he is kissing Veronica, but it’s really Sierra. How do you think Jamey would feel if he knew he was tricked into kissing someone else?
- Even though Sierra isn’t dating Jamey, she forbids Veronica from kissing him. Do you think she had a right to do that? How else did Sierra act jealous?
- In Sierra’s song, “Sunflower,” she expresses her insecurities by explaining how she is not conventionally beautiful and out of Jamey’s league. Do you think her feeling that way made it okay to lie to Jamey?
- Do you think it is possible to build a healthy relationship when it begins with a person being dishonest?



To All The Boys I Loved Before

Lara Jean Covey finds herself in a fake relationship after her secret love letters are accidentally mailed out to her past crushes.

- Why do you think Lara Jean & Margot's mother told them that they shouldn't start college with a boyfriend?
- In the movie, Lara Jean kisses Peter Kavinsky in front of Josh to avoid talking to him about the love letter. Do you think it was okay that she forcibly kissed Peter in front of everyone? Do you think the audience would have a different reaction if the gender roles were reversed?
- Peter starts a fake relationship with Lara Jean to make his ex jealous. How do you think Gen would feel if she knew Peter was manipulating her emotions in order to fall for him again?
- After Lara Jean agrees to the fake relationship, she sits down with Peter to create a contract. This is a great example of setting boundaries, and though theirs was not real, what kind of boundaries would you set in your relationship?
- In the final scene, Lara Jean asks Peter, "What do you put in a contract for a real relationship?" Peter replies by saying, "Nothing, you gotta trust." Do you think there is anything else important to a healthy relationship besides trust?



TV Watchlist

Prefer to binge-watch a show instead? We got you! Check out this list of TV shows below, and for more media recommendations, visit www.stopthehurt.org.

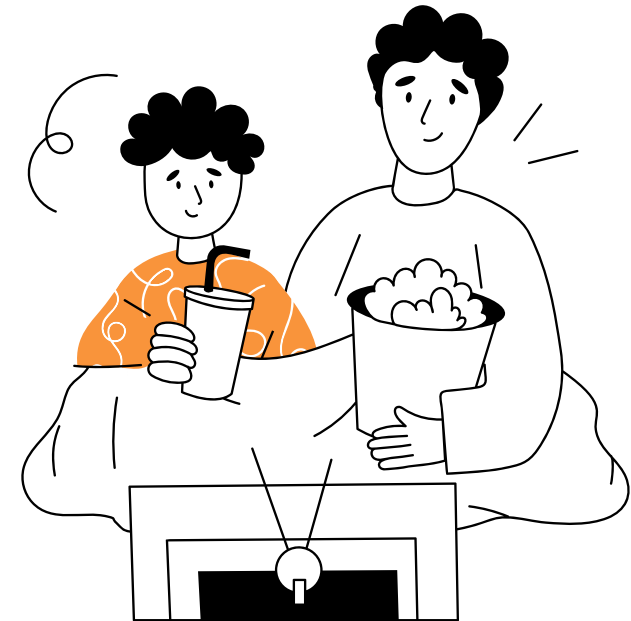
- Degrassi
- Elite
- Euphoria
- Gilmore Girls
- Gossip Girl
- Heartbreak High
- Heartstopper
- Love, Victor
- My Mad Fat Diary
- My Life with the Walter Boys
- Never Have I Ever
- One Tree Hill
- On My Block
- The Office
- The Summer I Turned Pretty
- This is Us
- XO, Kitty
- 90210



General Discussion Questions

Any piece of pop culture can be used to start a conversation about healthy and unhealthy relationships. Below are some general questions to help you watch with awareness.

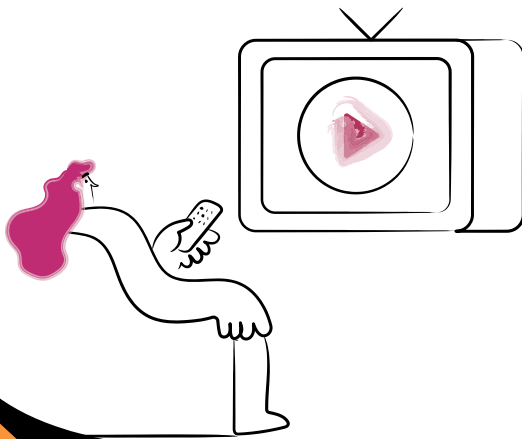
- If you have seen this movie/ show before, did you notice anything different this time?
- What messages do you think teens take away from this story?
- What kind of relationships did the character have? Do you think they were healthy or unhealthy?
- Did any relationship dynamic make you feel uncomfortable? If so, which scenes and why?
- How do the characters handle conflicts or disagreements?
- Are certain unhealthy behaviors normalized because of the character's gender?



Unhealthy Romantic Tropes

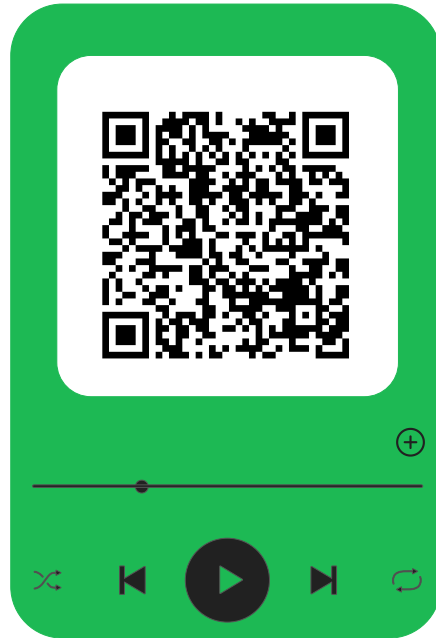
A movie trope is a commonly used theme, plot device, character type, or scenario that appears frequently in media. Have you noticed any of these tropes? What are some other unhealthy romantic tropes you have seen in pop culture?

- Stalking someone is romantic
- Love at first sight
- Enemies to lovers
- No doesn't mean no, it means try harder
- Public gestures declaring love or asking for forgiveness
- Changing your appearance is necessary to get the love interest
- It's okay to lie, cheat, or ruin other relationships as long as there is a happy ending



More Pop Culture

*Want to enjoy even more pop culture? Visit
www.dvccct.org/teen-dating-violence-awareness-month/*



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