

## Online Invisibility

Ava and her teammates have one of the best basketball teams in the county. They have been playing together for almost 10-years and are trying to win the first division championship in girls' basketball that their school has ever won. With the league coming down to one of the final games of the season, the girls were getting together for a team dinner before their big game.

Ava and a small group of her teammates decided that they wanted to see if they could mess with their competition before the game in case it could give them some sort of competitive advantage. Some of the girls had the phone numbers of the rival team and they began to devise their plan. They decided that the only one who text them was Ava because they wouldn't recognize her phone number. With this level of *invisibility*, Ava and the girls began to text the rival team's captain.

After sending a few texts claiming to know secrets about this person and trying to get her to admit to wrongdoings, they thought they would try to do things over a couple different social medias to mess with the other girls on the rival team as well. Some of the girls got together and started a new Snapchat account and they friended some of the girls from the other team. After the request was accepted, the girls started to send messages to some of the other girls on the rival team claiming to be with their boyfriends or asking for pictures that they then could make fun of.

Ava, after getting one of the girls to say something negative about one of her teammates, took a screenshot of the messages and shared those with her friends that were snapchatting. The messages then were sent around to everyone with the hope that the team would turn on each other and play poorly the next day. Ava and her teammates felt like they had done enough and decided to stop for the night.

Throughout the next day at school, the girls were getting ready for their big game. Not too long after lunch, Ava was called into her coach's office, who is also an English teacher at the school. When she arrived, the Principal, Athletic Director, and Dean of Students were sitting waiting. They explained to her that she is suspended for the game that day because of what she had done. When the rival team got to school that morning, they were able to figure out who the number was that texted their team the night before. They also traced the snapchat back to her phone number as well. She was asked if anyone else was involved and while she did not say they were, the team ended up losing that night and eventually never winning the division. Weeks later the truth about everyone being involved began to come out and some of the girl's college basketball scholarships were taken away.

1. What role does invisibility and anonymity play in this case?
2. What does Snapchat present to its users that might induce higher risk taking?