

A digital student safety tool

RED FLAG OR NAH?

53 Real-Life Scenarios for Group Discussion

A Facilitator's Guide

Powered by CrayScore™ & SchemerScore™

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30	10	8	5
Dating	Friendship	Roommate	Classmate / Coworker

37 red flags, 10 of them serious · 10 yellow flags · 6 green flags

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A Note Before You Begin

Everyone is a little cray. That line is about ordinary quirks: the friend who's always late, the roommate with strong opinions about dishes. It is not about coercion, violence or anything done without consent, and nothing in this guide treats those as quirks.

The goal of a session isn't to label people or write anyone off. It's to help people notice behavior, put words to it, and decide what to do next, whether the person is a date, a roommate, a friend or someone they work alongside.

What People Should Leave With

1. They can tell the difference between a difference in style, an unhealthy pattern and a safety concern.
2. They can name one thing they could say or do in response.
3. They know where to find support on this campus.

The Four Kinds of Cards

Green flag (6)	Healthy behavior in context. The right call is "nah." Use these so the room practices spotting what good looks like.
Yellow flag (10)	It depends, and the card says on what. There isn't one right answer. Let the room disagree.
Red flag (27)	A pattern worth taking seriously. The answer explains the behavior and what makes it a concern. It does not diagnose anyone or predict what they'll do.
Red flag, serious (10)	Safety is involved: sexual pressure or assault, stalking, control, threats, dangerous behavior. Don't open these for debate about whether the person harmed deserved respect. Discuss how to recognize it and how to support someone. Cards 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 22, 23, 39, 51.

Ground Rules to Say Out Loud

> - "You can pass on any card. No reason needed."
> - "We're talking about the scenarios, not about real people. No names, and no stories about someone on this floor or in this room."
> - "Some cards deal with sexual pressure, controlling behavior and threats of self-harm. Step out whenever you need to."
> - "If something here is close to home, come find me afterward, or use the resources I'm about to show you."

Know Your Reporting Role First

At many schools, RAs and other student staff are required to pass along what they learn about sexual misconduct, dating violence or stalking to the Title IX office. At others they aren't. Check your campus policy before you run this, and tell the group at the start so nobody is surprised:

> "If you tell me about something like this, I may have to share it with the Title IX office. If you'd rather talk to someone confidential, here's who that is."

If someone discloses anyway: listen, thank them for telling you, don't press for details, don't promise secrecy you can't keep, and connect them with support after the session. You are not there to investigate or to decide what happened.

How to Run a Card

1. Read the scenario aloud by number. Keep the title and the answer to yourself. Some titles give the answer away.
2. Ask, "Red flag or nah?" and take a quick vote: hands, cards or call and response.
3. Ask why. Use the "Ask the room" question on the card. Good follow-ups: "What would change your answer?" and "What could someone do next?"
4. Reveal the title, the answer and the explanation.
5. Share the next step, then move on. Five to six minutes a card is plenty.

No printer? Project cray.app/red-flag-or-nah. It deals random six-card rounds from this same deck.

Close with the Top 10 Green Flags at the back, so the session ends on what to look for.

Three Ready-Made Sessions

Icebreaker 15 to 20 minutes · 6 cards

Any group, no preparation. Light cards only.

1 32 47 28 42 40

1 The Fast Mover; 32 The Competitive Friend; 47 The Overnight Guest Every Weekend; 28 The Phone-Down Person; 42 The Passive-Aggressive Notes Person; 40 The Honest Cheerleader

Residence hall session 45 minutes · 10 cards

Floor meetings and roommate-agreement season. Everyday conflict and repair.

41 43 47 46 48 35 36 38 5 28

41 The Borrower Who Doesn't Ask; 43 The Social Calendar Conflict; 47 The Overnight Guest Every Weekend; 46 The Privacy Crosser; 48 The Gaslighter at Home; 35 The Flaky Friend; 36 The Boundary Tester; 38 The Honest "Not Tonight"; 5 The Jealous Tracker; 28 The Phone-Down Person

Relationship safety session 60 minutes · 12 cards

Includes serious cards. Run it with a staff partner or after your campus training, with resources on screen.

27 3 5 24 8 11 15 39 23 51 18 19

27 Baby Names by Date Three; 3 The Support System Saboteur; 5 The Jealous Tracker; 24 The Secret Keeper; 8 The Financial Controller; 11 The Walk Home; 15 The Consent Disregarder; 39 The Punchline; 23 The Ex Who Won't Exit; 51 The Recommendation; 18 The Full Stop; 19 The Real Apology

Building your own? Aim for at least one green and one yellow card for every three red, and never run a serious card without the resources below on screen.

Exit Check

Hand out index cards or put these three prompts on screen for the last two minutes. They give you a simple record of what people took away.

1	One behavior I'd notice sooner now.
2	One thing I could say or do about it.
3	One place on this campus I could go for support.

Resources to Have on Screen

Fill in the campus column before your session. Mark which resources are confidential, meaning they don't have to report what they hear.

Your campus	Name, location, phone or link
Confidential advocate or support	
Counseling center	
Title IX office	
Housing or Residence Life	
Campus safety (emergency)	
Basic needs or financial aid	

National, free, 24/7	How to reach them
Emergency	Call 911
988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	Call or text 988, or chat at 988lifeline.org
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233, text START to 88788, or chat at thehotline.org
RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline	800-656-4673, or chat at rainn.org
love is respect (dating, ages 13 to 26)	866-331-9474, text LOVEIS to 22522, or chat at loveisrespect.org

What This Guide Is, and Isn't

Red Flag or Nah? is a discussion tool. The answers are teaching positions on fictional scenarios, written to start conversation. They are not findings about any real person, and a single card is never the whole picture of a relationship.

CrayScore and SchemerScore are educational self-reflection tools. They are not validated clinical or risk assessment instruments, and they don't diagnose anyone or predict what a person will do. This guide hasn't been evaluated in an outcome study, and it makes no claim to reduce harm.

Nobody needs to prove abuse to set a boundary or end a relationship. When safety is a concern, leaving can take planning and support, so the serious cards point to advocates instead of telling anyone to walk out. This guide doesn't replace your campus's training, policies or reporting procedures.

DATING | Scenarios 1 to 30

DATING #1 **Red flag or nah?**

The Fast Mover

You matched with someone on a dating app on Monday, and by Wednesday they're suggesting you move in together "just to see how it feels." They say, "When you know, you know," and mention they already told their mom about you. Everything feels exciting, but something about the urgency gives you pause.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Excitement isn't the problem. The pressure is: a major commitment proposed two days in, before either of you could know the other. Speed alone doesn't prove bad intent, so watch what happens when you say "let's slow down." Someone who respects that is very different from someone who pushes harder.

Ask the room: What would a respectful response to "I want to slow down" sound like?

Next step: Say the pace you want out loud and see how it lands. Compare with card 27.

CrayScore Q51: Rushing Commitment (Control & Coercion) › SchemerScore Q1: Urgent Plans

DATING #2 **Red flag or nah?**

The Sob Story Benefactor

After three weeks of dating, your partner shares a heartbreaking story about being evicted and asks if you could "spot them" $400 just until next payday. They get emotional: "I've never had to ask anyone for anything. You're the only person I trust." The story changes slightly every time they tell it.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

People hit hard times, and asking for help is not a red flag by itself. What matters here is the combination: money requested three weeks in, emotional pressure that makes "no" feel cruel, and details that keep changing. Together those match what consumer protection agencies warn about in romance scams.

Ask the room: Which detail moves this from "someone having a hard time" to "something's off"?

Next step: You can care and still say no. Don't send money to someone whose story you can't verify.

SchemerScore Q5: Direct Financial Solicitation (Exploitation) › SchemerScore Q6: Sob Story to Pressure You (Manipulation) › SchemerScore Q2: Vague or Inconsistent Details (Deception)

DATING #3 **Red flag or nah?**

The Support System Saboteur

Your partner has been making subtle digs at your best friend, calling her “too dramatic” and saying she’s a bad influence. They get visibly annoyed when you make plans without them. Last week they said, “I just don’t understand why you need other people when you have me.”

ANSWER: RED FLAG

A partner can dislike one of your friends. This is different: digs at the people close to you, irritation when you spend time apart, and the idea that you shouldn’t need anyone else. Isolation rarely starts dramatically. It starts with comments like these, and it leaves a person with fewer people to turn to.

Ask the room: How is this different from a partner raising one specific, fair concern about a friend?

Next step: Keep your plans and your people. Notice whether that gets respected or punished.

CrayScore Q8: Discourages Outside Support Systems (Isolation) › CrayScore Q25: Surveillance of Your Activities (Control & Coercion)

DATING #4 **Red flag or nah?**

The Catfish Profile

You’ve been talking to someone online for two weeks. Their photos look almost too polished, like stock images. When you try to video call, they always have an excuse: bad lighting, broken camera, just got out of the gym. They have a great story for everything.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

One declined call means little. People have real reasons to skip video, including privacy, anxiety and disability. The concern is the pattern: every attempt to confirm who you’re talking to gets avoided, and the photos don’t look real. Until someone’s identity checks out some way, treat it as unconfirmed.

Ask the room: What are fair ways to verify someone that don’t require a video call?

Next step: Don’t send money, intimate images or personal details to someone you can’t verify. Meet in public and tell a friend where you’ll be.

SchemerScore Q12: Photos Don’t Align with Their Story (Deception, False Identity) › SchemerScore Q18: Photos Appear Heavily Filtered or Altered › SchemerScore Q2: Vague or Inconsistent Details (Deception)

DATING #5 **Red flag or nah?**

The Jealous Tracker

Your partner texts you every hour when you're apart. If you don't reply within ten minutes, they blow up your phone. When you went to a concert with your friends last Saturday, they called 11 times between 9pm and midnight. They say it's because "they care" and "just worry."

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Checking in is fine when both people agreed to it. This is monitoring that one person imposes: constant contact required, and a flood of calls when you don't answer fast enough. Calling it care doesn't change what it does, which is make time away from them stressful.

Ask the room: What's the difference between a check-in you both agreed to and one that's demanded?

Next step: Name a limit, like "I'll text when I'm home." If the answer is anger or threats, talk to someone you trust.

CrayScore Q24: Reactivity to Communication Delays (Dependency & Clinginess) › CrayScore Q25: Surveillance of Your Activities (Control & Coercion) › CrayScore Q7: Possessiveness (Control & Coercion)

DATING #6 **Red flag or nah?**

The Conditional Affection Giver

Your partner is warm and attentive when things go their way. After any disagreement, even a small one, they go cold and silent for days. They've never raised their voice. But you've started walking on eggshells just to avoid triggering the silence.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Taking space after an argument can be healthy, especially when someone says "I need an hour, then let's talk." Days of silence after every disagreement work differently: they punish you for disagreeing. The sign that it's working as punishment is that you've started avoiding conflict to prevent it.

Ask the room: What separates a cooling-off period from the silent treatment?

Next step: Ask for a plan: how long, and when you'll come back to the conversation.

CrayScore Q12: Conditional Affection (Control & Coercion) › CrayScore Q21: Failure to Reconcile After Arguments (Conflict Behavior)

DATING #7 **Red flag or nah?**

The Anger Flashpoint

Your partner is generally great, but when something goes wrong (a bad call in a game, slow service at a restaurant, a minor inconvenience), their reaction is completely out of proportion. They once berated a server for several minutes. You've started pre-managing situations to avoid setting them off.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Two things are already happening, and neither needs a prediction. Someone with no power in the situation got berated, and you've changed your own behavior to keep the peace. When you're managing the world around a person so they don't blow up, their anger is steering the relationship.

Ask the room: Why does it matter how someone treats people who can't push back?

Next step: Say what you saw at a calm moment. How they respond to hearing it matters more than the outburst.

CrayScore Q16: Short Temper / Gets Angry Easily (Anger & Temper, Weight: 4) › CrayScore Q20: Harsh or Cruel During Arguments › CrayScore Q19: Disrespect Toward Others During Conflict

DATING #8 **Red flag or nah?**

The Financial Controller

You recently moved in together, and your partner insisted on taking over all the shared finances. Now they give you an "allowance" and expect you to account for every purchase. When you asked to have your own bank account again, they accused you of planning to leave them.

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

Couples can agree to share a budget. Here one person took control, the other lost access to their own money, and asking for it back was treated as betrayal. Advocates call this financial or economic abuse. It matters because without money of your own, every other choice gets harder, including leaving.

Ask the room: Where's the line between budgeting together and one person controlling the money?

Next step: Talk with a confidential advocate about options. Getting independent access to money safely can take planning.

CrayScore Q68: Financial Control / Restricting Access to Money (Control & Coercion, Weight: 4)

DATING #9 **Red flag or nah?**

The Restraining Order History

While Googling your new partner's name, you find a local news article saying they were the subject of a restraining order three years ago. When you ask about it, they dismiss it entirely: "That was my crazy ex. They made the whole thing up to mess with me."

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

You can't know from one article what happened, and it isn't your job to rule on it. What you can weigh is what's in front of you: a court order exists, and when you asked a fair question, the answer was contempt for the other person and no interest in why you'd be concerned. That response is the flag.

Ask the room: What would a reassuring answer to that question have sounded like?

Next step: You're allowed to slow down or step back without proving anything. Tell a friend what you found.

CrayScore Q69: Subject of a Restraining Order (Legal History, Weight: 5) › CrayScore Q13: Deflection & Projection (Emotional Stability)

DATING #10 **Red flag or nah?**

The Slow-Down Crisis

When you tried to slow things down in the relationship, your partner didn't respond with disappointment. They responded with a crisis: they threatened to hurt themselves, said you were "the only reason they had to stay," and showed up at your apartment unannounced.

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

Take any threat of self-harm seriously, and know that you are not the right or only person to handle it. Struggling with self-harm is not a red flag about someone. The red flag is the link: your decision gets answered with a threat, and your request for space gets ignored. You can care about their safety and still keep your boundary.

Ask the room: How can someone get a partner help without giving up their own decision?

Next step: If there's immediate danger, call 911 or campus safety. Otherwise point them to 988 or campus counseling, tell an RA or someone you trust, and don't carry it alone.

CrayScore Q59: Disregards Stated Limits / Boundaries (Control & Coercion, Weight: 4) › CrayScore Q24: Reactivity to Communication Delays (Dependency & Clinginess)

DATING #11 **Red flag or nah?**

The Walk Home

At a party, your friend Maya has had far more to drink than usual. She's slurring, can't stand without leaning on the wall, and keeps losing track of the conversation. Someone she met an hour ago has an arm around her and says, "I'll take her back to my place. She's into it."

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

Someone who can't stand, speak clearly or follow what's happening can't consent to sex, whatever she said earlier in the night and whatever the other person says she wants. Being drunk doesn't make anyone responsible for what another person does to them. The only question here is how Maya gets home safe.

Ask the room: What are three ways to step in here, and which would you realistically use?

Next step: Stay with your friend, pull in other friends or the host, and get her home. If she can't be woken or is breathing strangely, call 911.

CrayScore Q46: Sexual Coercion or Non-Consensual Acts (Violence & Safety, Weight: 5)

DATING #12 **Red flag or nah?**

The Sext Pusher

You've been talking for less than two weeks when they start pushing for explicit photos. When you say you're not ready, they call you "uptight" or ask, "Don't you trust me?" They frame it as a normal part of getting close and suggest you'd do it if you really liked them.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

The issue isn't sexting, which adults can freely choose. It's that "not ready" was answered with guilt and name-calling until "no" felt like a character flaw. Pressure like that is a problem at any stage of a relationship. And once an image is sent, you no longer control where it goes.

Ask the room: What does it sound like when someone takes "not ready" well?

Next step: "No" is a complete answer. If anyone ever threatens to share your images, save the messages, don't pay, and report it to the platform and the FBI.

SchemerScore Q17: Asked to Exchange Explicit Photos Quickly (Sexual Opportunism, Scam Potential) › SchemerScore Q16: Conversation Steered Toward Sex Very Early › CrayScore Q46: Sexual Coercion or Non-Consensual Acts (Violence & Safety, Weight: 5)

DATING #13 **Red flag or nah?**

The Double-Standards Enforcer

Your partner gets upset when you hang out with certain friends, the ones they see as competition, but has no problem doing the same themselves. They check your phone but would never let you look at theirs. When you point out the contradiction, they say “it’s different” without ever explaining how.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Rules that only run one way are about control. And the fix isn’t making it equal: both people going through each other’s phones would still be surveillance. What’s missing here is trust, and the refusal to even explain “it’s different” shows the rules aren’t up for discussion.

Ask the room: If both partners checked each other’s phones, would that make it healthy? Why or why not?

Next step: Ask for one standard that applies to both of you, and see whether that conversation is allowed.

CrayScore Q22: Double Standards (Control & Coercion) › CrayScore Q7: Possessiveness (Control & Coercion) › CrayScore Q10: Suspicious / Distrustful Behavior (Trust & Suspicion)

DATING #14 **Red flag or nah?**

The Manipulation Bragger

On a date, your match casually mentions how easy it is for them to get people to do what they want. They tell a story about “playing” a coworker into doing their project for them, laughing as they tell it. “People are just easy to read,” they say with a smirk.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

They’ve told you something true about themselves on a first date: they took advantage of a coworker and they’re proud of it. You don’t need to guess at their character or their future. It’s enough to notice that they find exploiting someone funny, and to ask what that would look like aimed at you.

Ask the room: Is there a difference between being persuasive and what they’re describing?

Next step: Believe what people tell you about how they treat others.

SchemerScore Q24: Bragged About How Easily They Manipulate Others (Manipulation, Conquest Bragging) › CrayScore Q73: Enjoys Control or Power Over Others (Control & Coercion, Weight: 5)

DATING #15 **Red flag or nah?**

The Consent Disregarder

During physical intimacy, your partner has repeatedly done things you've explicitly said you didn't want, pushing past the line and then minimizing it afterward: "You're so sensitive," or "I thought you'd like it once we got going."

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

Doing something sexual that a person has said no to is nonconsensual, in a relationship or out of one, and whatever happened before. "I thought you'd like it" is not consent. It doesn't need to happen repeatedly to matter. Once is enough. If this is familiar, it was not your fault, and what you do next is your choice.

Ask the room: Why doesn't being in a relationship, or saying yes to something else, count as consent?

Next step: Confidential support is available without making a report: a campus confidential advocate, or RAINN at 800-656-4673.

CrayScore Q46: Sexual Coercion or Non-Consensual Acts (Violence & Safety, Weight: 5) › CrayScore Q47: Hurting You in Ways You Didn't Agree To (Weight: 5) › CrayScore Q59: Disregards Stated Limits / Boundaries (Control & Coercion, Weight: 4)

DATING #16 **Red flag or nah?**

The Public Charmer, Private Critic

In public, your partner is complimentary and supportive. Behind closed doors, they constantly critique your appearance, your decisions, your friends and your career choices. When you tell them it hurts, they say, "I'm the only one who cares enough to be honest with you."

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Honest feedback is specific, occasional and usually asked for. This is constant criticism of who you are, delivered only in private, and defended as love when you object. The gap between the public and private versions suggests they know how it would look.

Ask the room: How can you tell honest feedback from a put-down?

Next step: Tell someone you trust what gets said in private. Hearing it out loud helps.

CrayScore Q11: Often Criticizes or Puts You Down (Verbal & Emotional Abuse) › CrayScore Q9: Tries to Change Things About You You're Happy With (Identity Manipulation) › CrayScore Q57: Rarely Expresses Genuine Kindness

DATING #17 **Red flag or nah?**

The Animal Incident

While at your partner’s place, they kicked their dog when it jumped up on the couch. When you said something, they shrugged and said, “It knows better.” Later you saw a video on their phone where they laughed while the dog was visibly scared of them.

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

Hurting an animal and laughing at its fear is cruelty, and it’s serious on its face. Research has repeatedly found that animal abuse and violence toward people in the same home tend to occur together. That’s a pattern across many cases, not a forecast about one person, but you don’t need a forecast. What you saw is enough to act on.

Ask the room: Why might someone talk themselves out of taking this seriously?

Next step: You don’t need more evidence to step back. Animal cruelty can also be reported to local animal control.

CrayScore Q18: Unkind or Aggressive to Animals or Children (Violence & Safety Risks, Weight: 5)

DATING #18 **Red flag or nah?**

The Full Stop

Things are getting physical with someone you’ve been seeing, and partway through you say, “Actually, can we stop?” They stop right away. No sighing, no “are you serious?” They ask if you’re okay, and the two of you end up watching a show instead. The next day they’re exactly as warm as before.

ANSWER: GREEN FLAG

This is what consent looks like when it’s working. You can change your mind at any point, and a partner who respects that stops, checks on you, and doesn’t make you pay for it later. Pay attention to the next day too: no sulking, no guilt, no distance.

Ask the room: Why does the reaction the next day matter as much as the reaction in the moment?

Next step: Notice it and say so. This is the standard.

No red flags here. A respected “no” is one of the clearest green flags there is.

DATING #19 **Red flag or nah?**

The Real Apology

Your friend Dani tells you her girlfriend, Priya, completely forgot Dani's senior showcase last week. Priya didn't make excuses. She said, "I messed up and I know that hurt," asked what would help, and put Dani's next two events in her calendar. She showed up early to both.

ANSWER: GREEN FLAG

Everyone drops the ball sometimes. What separates an ordinary mistake from a red flag is what comes after: owning it without excuses, asking what would help, and then changing the behavior. An apology with follow-through is repair. Compare with card 20.

Ask the room: What are the parts of an apology that make it believable?

Next step: Let people repair. One mistake handled well builds trust.

No red flags here. This is what accountability looks like after an ordinary mistake.

DATING #20 **Red flag or nah?**

The Accountability Avoider

Every argument ends the same way: somehow it's your fault. When you pointed out they forgot your anniversary, they said you "should have reminded them." When they snapped at you in public, they said you "provoked it." In their stories about exes, bosses and friends, it's always the other person too. They have never once apologized and meant it.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Plenty of people have been treated badly, sometimes more than once, and that isn't a red flag. The pattern here is narrower: specific things this person did, each one turned into your fault, and never a real apology. Without accountability nothing gets repaired, so the same problems keep coming back.

Ask the room: What would taking responsibility have sounded like in one of these moments?

Next step: Name one specific incident and ask for one specific change. Watch what happens.

CrayScore Q13: Deflection & Projection (Emotional Stability) › CrayScore Q14: Avoiding Responsibility When Called Out › CrayScore Q21: Failure to Reconcile After Arguments (Conflict Behavior) › CrayScore Q70: Avoids Accountability / Blames Others (Responsibility, Weight: 4)

DATING #21 **Red flag or nah?**

The Fairytale Flip

The first month was a fairytale: constant texts, over-the-top compliments, surprise weekend trips. Then, almost overnight, they became distant and critical. You haven't changed, but suddenly nothing you do is right. Mutual friends say, "That's just how they are in relationships."

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Feelings cooling off isn't a red flag. People lose interest, and that's allowed. The concern is the switch from intense pursuit to constant criticism, which leaves you working to win back the earlier version. The friends' comment is information too: this has happened before.

Ask the room: How is this different from someone simply losing interest?

Next step: Judge the relationship by how it is now, and resist chasing month one.

CrayScore Q74: Idealization-Devaluation Pattern (Emotional Stability) › CrayScore Q11: Often Criticizes or Puts You Down (Verbal & Emotional Abuse)

DATING #22 **Red flag or nah?**

The "Under Control" Driver

Your partner has two DUIs on their record but still drives after drinking, just "more carefully now." They've missed work several times because of hangovers. When you express concern, they say you're being judgmental and that they "have it under control."

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

You don't have to decide whether they have a drinking problem. The danger is concrete: they still drive after drinking, after two DUIs. That puts them, you and strangers at risk every time. Your concern isn't judgment, and brushing it off doesn't make the driving any safer.

Ask the room: What would you actually say or do when they pick up the keys?

Next step: Never ride with a driver who's been drinking. Have your own way home every time.

CrayScore Q42: DUI with Continued Alcohol Use (Substance Use, Weight: 5) › CrayScore Q43: Missed Work Due to Substance Use › CrayScore Q28: Reckless / Dangerous Behavior

DATING #23 **Red flag or nah?**

The Ex Who Won’t Exit

You ended things a month ago and asked for no contact. Since then your ex has texted from two new numbers after you blocked them, “happened” to be outside your Tuesday lab three weeks in a row, and liked a photo from an account you never told them about. You’ve also noticed your streaming account being used from a device that isn’t yours.

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

After a clear “stop contacting me,” repeated contact, showing up where you’ll be, and getting into your accounts add up to a pattern. Any one piece can be explained away. Together they fit the common definition of stalking: repeated behavior aimed at one person that would make a reasonable person afraid. Feeling uneasy is the appropriate response.

Ask the room: Why is this easy to dismiss one incident at a time?

Next step: Don’t reply. Keep a log with dates and screenshots, change passwords and sign out other devices, and talk to campus safety or a confidential advocate about options.

CrayScore Q25: Surveillance of Your Activities (Control & Coercion) › CrayScore Q59: Disregards Stated Limits / Boundaries (Control & Coercion, Weight: 4) › CrayScore Q7: Possessiveness (Control & Coercion)

DATING #24 **Red flag or nah?**

The Secret Keeper

Three months in, your partner still hasn’t introduced you to any friends or family, and changes the subject when you bring it up. Their apartment is off-limits. They step out to take certain calls. When you ask, they say they’re “a private person.”

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

There are good reasons for privacy: a difficult family, not being out, roommates, culture, or just moving slower than you. There are also reasons that would matter to you, like another relationship. Privacy means “I’m not ready to share that yet.” Secrecy means you’re being kept from facts that affect your choices. One honest conversation usually tells you which.

Ask the room: What’s the difference between a partner being private and a partner hiding something from you?

Next step: Say what you need to know to feel secure, and ask what they need. Evasion after a direct question is an answer.

CrayScore Q54: Hiding Parts of Their Life (Deception & Infidelity) › SchemerScore Q4: Failed to Disclose They Were Already in a Relationship

DATING #25 **Red flag or nah?**

The Crypto Date

Dinner was charming: great conversation, great chemistry. But by dessert, the topic had drifted to a “guaranteed” crypto investment your date was personally involved in. They showed you a screenshot of $30,000 in profit last month and mentioned you could start with as little as $500.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Talking about crypto isn’t the flag. The flags are “guaranteed” returns, proof you can’t verify, and a new romantic interest recruiting you to put money in. Regulators warn about exactly this mix, often called a relationship investment scam. No real investment is guaranteed, and a screenshot proves nothing.

Ask the room: Which single word in this scenario should stop you?

Next step: Never invest on the advice of someone you just met. If money was already sent, report it at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

SchemerScore Q13: Cryptocurrency Brought Up Early (Financial Fraud) › SchemerScore Q22: Flashing Large Amounts of Cash (Deception) › SchemerScore Q21: Flaunting Luxury Without Stable Income

DATING #26 **Red flag or nah?**

The “Just Content” Account

The person you’re dating posts revealing photos several times a week and trades flirty comments with strangers in the replies. You’ve said it bothers you. They say it’s “just content” and that you’re being insecure.

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

Nobody’s wrong for posting what they want, and nobody’s wrong for feeling uncomfortable. What people share online is theirs to decide, and discomfort doesn’t give a partner a veto. The questions worth arguing about: what have you two actually agreed to, and when one of you raises a concern, does it get heard or get labeled?

Ask the room: Is “you’re just insecure” a fair response? Is “take those down” a fair request?

Next step: Talk about what exclusivity means to each of you, in specifics.

SchemerScore Q15: Social Media Curated for Attention (Manipulation, Image Control)

DATING #27 **Red flag or nah?**

Baby Names by Date Three

On your second date, they told you they love you. By the third, they were talking about baby names. They use pet names they say they only use for “the one.” Everything feels incredibly intense and incredibly fast.

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

Some people fall fast and mean it. Intensity this early can also be what people call love bombing, where affection speeds you past your own judgment. You can’t tell which from the intensity itself. You can tell from what happens when you ask to slow down: relief and patience, or pressure and hurt.

Ask the room: What’s one way to test this without accusing them of anything?

Next step: Set the pace you want and watch the response. Compare with card 1.

SchemerScore Q27: Premature Pet Names / Fast Emotional Intimacy (Manipulation) › CrayScore Q51: Rushing Commitment (Control & Coercion) › CrayScore Q23: Emotional Dependency (Dependency & Clinginess)

DATING #28 **Red flag or nah?**

The Phone-Down Person

The person you’re dating told you early on that they keep their phone off during shifts and are usually asleep by eleven. They don’t reply instantly, and some weekend nights you don’t hear from them at all. But when they say “I’ll call you Sunday,” they call Sunday, and they’ve never once asked where you were.

ANSWER: GREEN FLAG

Being offline is not a red flag. This person told you how they communicate, does what they say they’ll do, and gives you the same freedom. Reliability means keeping your word. It has nothing to do with being reachable every hour. Compare with card 5.

Ask the room: Why can a slow reply feel like a red flag when it isn’t one?

Next step: Agree on what each of you actually needs for communication, then trust it.

No red flags here. Clear expectations plus follow-through is the healthy version of staying in touch.

DATING #29 **Red flag or nah?**

The Reassurance Loop

Your partner needs a lot of reassurance. They ask several times a day if you still like them, if you're mad at them, if you find them attractive. They get anxious if you don't respond warmly enough. They've mentioned they're working on their anxiety with a therapist.

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

Wanting reassurance is normal, and anxiety isn't a character flaw. The open question is whether this is workable for both of you. You can be supportive without being someone's only source of calm, and you're allowed to have limits. How they respond to a kind limit tells you more than the anxiety does.

Ask the room: How do you support someone without becoming responsible for their feelings?

Next step: Offer a kind, clear limit, like "I can't text during class, and I'm not upset with you."

CrayScore Q23: Emotional Dependency (Dependency & Clinginess) › CrayScore Q29: Needs Constant Validation from Others (Validation Seeking)

DATING #30 **Red flag or nah?**

The Genuine Concern

After a hard week at work, your partner notices you seem off. They ask what's going on, and whether you want advice or just someone to listen. When you open up, they put down their phone, stay present, and check in again the next day. They don't make it about themselves.

ANSWER: GREEN FLAG

This is what emotional availability looks like in practice: noticing, asking what you need, listening, and following up without being asked. One good moment doesn't certify a whole relationship, but moments like this deserve to be named as clearly as the red ones.

Ask the room: When has someone made you feel heard? What exactly did they do?

Next step: Tell people when they get it right.

No red flags here. Recognizing healthy behavior matters as much as spotting the patterns that concern you.

FRIENDSHIP | Scenarios 31 to 40

FRIENDSHIP #31 **Red flag or nah?**

The One-Way Street

Your friend always has something going on. You've shown up for breakups, job losses, family drama and late-night crises, every time. When you went through a rough patch last semester, they were hard to reach. When you mentioned feeling unsupported, they said, "I've just had a lot going on."

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

One hard semester doesn't make someone a taker. People run out of capacity, and "I've had a lot going on" may be true. It becomes a red flag when it's the pattern: you always give, they always receive, and raising it gets brushed off every time. This card is yellow because so far you only know about one instance.

Ask the room: What would turn this from a rough patch into a pattern?

Next step: Tell them plainly what you needed and didn't get. Then see what they do with it.

CrayScore Q56: Shows Little Concern When Others Are Struggling (Empathy, Weight: 4) › CrayScore Q35: Only Concerned About Their Own Needs (Self-Centeredness)

FRIENDSHIP #32 **Red flag or nah?**

The Competitive Friend

Whenever you share good news, your friend one-ups it. When you got an internship offer, they brought up their own offer that paid more. When someone complimented your outfit, they mentioned the designer piece they'd just bought. They rarely just say congratulations and mean it.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Sharing a similar experience can be a way of connecting. This is different in two ways: it happens every time, and theirs always has to be bigger. The result is that your good news never gets to be yours. It's a red flag for the friendship, though not a dangerous one.

Ask the room: How do you tell relating from one-upping?

Next step: Say it lightly, once: "Can this one just be mine for a minute?"

CrayScore Q36: Frequently Brags About Achievements (Grandiosity / Validation Seeking) › CrayScore Q37: Superiority Complex › CrayScore Q35: Only Concerned About Their Own Needs (Self-Centeredness)

FRIENDSHIP #33 **Red flag or nah?**

The Gossip Machine

Your friend knows everything about everyone and shares all of it. They've told you detailed, private things about mutual friends, things those people clearly didn't want passed around. They call it "just being honest" or say, "I thought you'd want to know." You've started wondering what they say about you.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

You have good reason to wonder. Someone who passes other people's private business along to you has shown you how they handle things told in confidence. That's different from a friend confiding in one person for support, or telling someone who can help because they're worried about a person's safety.

Ask the room: What's the difference between gossip, venting and raising a real concern?

Next step: Share less until you've seen them keep something to themselves.

CrayScore Q55: Shares Others' Private Information Without Permission (Trust) › SchemerScore Q26: Words Don't Match Actions (Deception)

FRIENDSHIP #34 **Red flag or nah?**

The Underminer

Your friend is supportive until you do well. When you got into the honors program, they said, "Yeah, but it's not that competitive." When you started dating someone you like, they listed reasons it probably won't work out. They call it "keeping it real," but it only ever runs in one direction.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

A friend can have honest doubts. The tell is the direction: the "realness" shows up only when something is going well for you, and it always shrinks the good news. Honesty that's meant to help comes with care, and sometimes it's positive. Compare with card 40.

Ask the room: What does supportive honesty sound like?

Next step: Notice who you avoid telling good news to. That's worth knowing.

CrayScore Q11: Often Criticizes or Puts You Down (Verbal & Emotional Abuse) › CrayScore Q9: Tries to Change Things About You You're Happy With (Identity Manipulation)

FRIENDSHIP #35 **Red flag or nah?**

The Flaky Friend

Your friend cancels plans regularly. Not always, but often enough that you plan around the chance they won't show. There's always a reason. They're also the first to be upset if you make plans without them. They describe themselves as "bad at adulting."

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

Cancelling happens, and there are real reasons for it: work, money, health, family, energy. The question for the room is fairness. Are they offering you the same flexibility they need from you? Being unreliable while expecting you to stay available is the part worth raising.

Ask the room: Does the reason for flaking change how you'd handle it?

Next step: Ask what kinds of plans actually work for them, and say what you need.

CrayScore Q14: Avoiding Responsibility When Called Out › CrayScore Q35: Only Concerned About Their Own Needs (Self-Centeredness)

FRIENDSHIP #36 **Red flag or nah?**

The Boundary Tester

You've told your friend you're not comfortable talking about certain things: your family situation, your mental health, your weight. They bring them up anyway, usually as "checking in." When you change the subject, they say you're "being closed off" and that real friends talk about everything.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

You said clearly what's off the table, and they keep going there, then blame you for minding. Closeness is something people choose together, and "real friends talk about everything" is pressure dressed up as a principle. One exception: a friend who's truly worried about your safety may need to speak up or get help, and that's a different situation from this one.

Ask the room: When, if ever, is it right for a friend to push past "I don't want to talk about it"?

Next step: Repeat the limit once, plainly. A good friend adjusts.

CrayScore Q59: Disregards Stated Limits / Boundaries (Control & Coercion, Weight: 4) › CrayScore Q14: Avoiding Responsibility When Called Out

FRIENDSHIP #37 **Red flag or nah?**

The Loyalty Test

Two of your mutual friends had a falling out over a group trip that fell apart. Your friend told you privately that you needed to “choose a side” or you’d be seen as disloyal. They’ve done this before in other disagreements. When you stayed neutral, they were cold to you for two weeks.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

In an ordinary disagreement, you’re allowed to stay friends with both people. Demanding that you pick a side, then freezing you out when you won’t, uses the friendship as leverage. One limit on this card: it’s about ordinary conflict. When someone has been harmed, wanting distance from people who stay close to the person who hurt them is not a loyalty test.

Ask the room: When is staying neutral fair, and when isn’t it?

Next step: “I care about you both and I’m not picking” is a full answer.

CrayScore Q7: Possessiveness (Control & Coercion) › CrayScore Q8: Discourages Outside Support Systems (Isolation)

FRIENDSHIP #38 **Red flag or nah?**

The Honest “Not Tonight”

You text a friend that you’ve had an awful day and need to talk. They reply: “I want to hear all of it, but I’m wiped tonight and I’d be a bad listener. Can I call you at ten tomorrow? If it can’t wait, call me and I’ll pick up.” At ten the next morning, your phone rings.

ANSWER: GREEN FLAG

A good friend isn’t available every minute. This friend told you the truth about their capacity, offered a specific time, left the door open in case it was urgent, and then did what they said. That’s more dependable than “I’m always here” from someone who doesn’t pick up.

Ask the room: Why can an honest “not right now” be better than an automatic “of course”?

Next step: Try it yourself the next time you’re running on empty.

No red flags here. Honest limits plus follow-through is what dependable support looks like.

FRIENDSHIP #39 **Red flag or nah?**

The Punchline

At lunch, your friend Jake mentions, half laughing, that his girlfriend kept going the other night after he told her he wasn't in the mood. He says it was "no big deal." One of the guys at the table grins and says, "Bro, you're complaining?" Everyone laughs. Jake laughs too, then goes quiet.

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

Jake said no and it was ignored. That's nonconsensual, and it doesn't change because he's a guy, because she's his girlfriend, or because he's laughing about it. The second red flag is the table: the joke taught Jake not to bring it up again. Reactions like that make it harder for anyone, and especially for men, to speak up.

Ask the room: What could one person at that table have said instead?

Next step: Check in with Jake privately: "That didn't sound okay. How are you doing with it?" Listen, don't push, and let him decide what happens next.

CrayScore Q46: Sexual Coercion or Non-Consensual Acts (Violence & Safety, Weight: 5) › CrayScore Q59: Disregards Stated Limits / Boundaries (Control & Coercion, Weight: 4)

FRIENDSHIP #40 **Red flag or nah?**

The Honest Cheerleader

Your friend is one of your biggest supporters, and they also tell you the truth. When you asked whether to send the risky text to your ex, they said no and explained why. When your presentation had a weak section, they told you before you gave it. Either way, they back whatever you decide.

ANSWER: GREEN FLAG

This friend celebrates you, tells you hard things when you ask, and respects that the decision is yours. Honesty and kindness in the same person is what makes their praise worth something. Compare with card 34.

Ask the room: Who in your life does this? Do they know you value it?

Next step: Be this friend for someone.

No red flags here. This is what honest, caring friendship looks like.

ROOMMATE | Scenarios 41 to 48

ROOMMATE #41 **Red flag or nah?**

The Borrower Who Doesn’t Ask

Your roommate has been using your groceries, your toiletries and, last week, your laptop, all without asking. When you brought it up, they said, “I figured we’re roommates, what’s mine is yours.” They haven’t offered to replace anything.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Some roommates happily share everything, because they agreed to. Nobody agreed here. Your things were used without asking, and when you raised it, the answer was a slogan and no change. The laptop matters most: that’s your coursework and your private accounts.

Ask the room: What would a fair sharing agreement between these two look like?

Next step: Put it in a roommate agreement: what’s shared, what’s ask-first, what’s off-limits. Bring in your RA if it continues.

CrayScore Q59: Disregards Stated Limits / Boundaries (Control & Coercion, Weight: 4) › CrayScore Q39: Disregards Rules or Social Norms (Responsibility) › CrayScore Q14: Avoiding Responsibility When Called Out

ROOMMATE #42 **Red flag or nah?**

The Passive-Aggressive Notes Person

Instead of talking to you directly, your roommate leaves notes: “Someone left dishes in the sink again.” “I guess some people don’t care about shared spaces.” When you try to bring it up in person, they say everything is “fine,” and then there’s another note the next day.

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

Notes aren’t the problem. Plenty of people communicate better in writing. The problem is the sarcasm, plus saying “fine” in person so nothing ever gets resolved. It’s also worth asking the uncomfortable question: are the dishes yours? This is ordinary roommate conflict, and it’s fixable.

Ask the room: If you were the one leaving the notes, what would make it easier to say it out loud?

Next step: Offer a low-pressure channel: a shared chore list, a five-minute weekly check-in, or a mediated conversation with your RA.

CrayScore Q20: Harsh or Cruel During Arguments › CrayScore Q21: Failure to Reconcile After Arguments (Conflict Behavior)

ROOMMATE #43 **Red flag or nah?**

The Social Calendar Conflict

Your roommate regularly has friends over late without a heads up, sometimes until 2am on weeknights. When you mentioned it, they apologized and said they'd try to do better. It happened again two weeks later.

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

They apologized, which counts for something, and then it happened again, which also counts. One repeat could be forgetfulness or the start of a pattern, and you can't tell yet. "Try to do better" is too vague to hold anyone to. A specific agreement gives you both something to point to.

Ask the room: What specific agreement would you propose?

Next step: Agree on quiet hours and how much notice guests need, and write it down.

CrayScore Q39: Disregards Rules or Social Norms (Responsibility) › CrayScore Q14: Avoiding Responsibility When Called Out

ROOMMATE #44 **Red flag or nah?**

The Invisible Mess Maker

The common areas of your apartment are constantly a mess: dishes, trash, laundry on shared furniture. Your roommate's own room is spotless. When you raise it, they agree it's bad and say they'll fix it. Nothing changes. This has happened five times. You've started cleaning up after them just to use your own kitchen.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Five conversations, five agreements and no change is a pattern. Saying yes ends the conversation, and then the work lands on you. Before treating it purely as disrespect, check whether something is getting in the way, since "I'll fix it" isn't a plan. Either way, a sixth identical conversation won't help.

Ask the room: What would make the sixth conversation different from the first five?

Next step: Move from promises to a written chore split with days attached. If that fails, ask your RA or housing office about mediation.

CrayScore Q70: Avoids Accountability / Blames Others (Responsibility, Weight: 4) › CrayScore Q39: Disregards Rules or Social Norms (Responsibility) › CrayScore Q14: Avoiding Responsibility When Called Out

ROOMMATE #45 **Red flag or nah?**

The Bill Avoider

Utilities, internet and shared groceries are supposed to be split evenly. Your roommate pays their share late every month, sometimes by weeks, and always has a reason. They've asked you to cover them "just this once" four times. When you set a firm deadline last month, they got annoyed and called you "transactional."

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Being short on money isn't a character flaw, and a roommate who says "I'm struggling, can we work something out?" deserves a real conversation. That's not what happened here. The costs keep landing on you, and when you asked for what you're owed, you got shamed for asking. Expecting an agreed split to be paid is fair.

Ask the room: How would this card change if the roommate had come to you first and explained?

Next step: Put amounts and due dates in writing. If money is the real issue, the financial aid or basic needs office may be able to help them.

CrayScore Q13: Deflection & Projection (Emotional Stability) › SchemerScore Q5: Direct Financial Solicitation (Exploitation)

ROOMMATE #46 **Red flag or nah?**

The Privacy Crosser

You came home to find your roommate had gone through boxes in your room looking for a charger. Another time, they read a letter on your desk "accidentally" and brought up something from it. When you said your space was private, they said you were "acting like you have something to hide."

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Going through someone's room and reading their mail crosses a basic line, and needing a charger doesn't excuse it. The reply makes it worse: your objection got turned into an accusation. Wanting privacy doesn't mean you're hiding anything.

Ask the room: Why is "what are you hiding?" an unfair response to "please don't go through my things"?

Next step: State the rule once: "Ask before you go in my room." If it continues, talk to your RA and ask about a lock.

CrayScore Q59: Disregards Stated Limits / Boundaries (Control & Coercion, Weight: 4) › CrayScore Q13: Deflection & Projection (Emotional Stability)

ROOMMATE #47 **Red flag or nah?**

The Overnight Guest Every Weekend

Your roommate's partner stays over almost every weekend, Friday through Sunday. They're polite and not disruptive, but you didn't sign up to live with three people. Your roommate hasn't asked if this is okay and seems to assume it's fine because you haven't said anything.

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

Nobody has done anything wrong yet. Your roommate assumed, and you stayed quiet, so they have no idea it bothers you. A limit that hasn't been said can't be respected. Most housing agreements and campus guest policies also have rules about overnight guests, which gives you a neutral place to start.

Ask the room: Whose job is it to bring this up? Why is that hard?

Next step: Raise it now, before resentment builds: how many nights works for both of you?

No scored behavior yet. Nothing has been asked, and nothing has been refused.

ROOMMATE #48 **Red flag or nah?**

The Gaslighter at Home

Your roommate repeatedly denies things you both know happened: the dishes you watched them leave, the package addressed to you that they opened, the conversation where you agreed on quiet hours. When you bring these up, they say you're remembering it wrong, calmly and every time. You've started keeping notes.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

People remember things differently, and a single disagreement about who said what is normal. This is a pattern: the denials are constant, they always favor the same person, and you've begun to doubt your own memory. That steady undermining of what you know is what "gaslighting" means. Keeping notes is a sensible response.

Ask the room: How is this different from two people honestly remembering something differently?

Next step: Put agreements in writing. A text counts. Take your notes to your RA if you need help resolving it.

CrayScore Q13: Deflection & Projection (Emotional Stability) › SchemerScore Q26: Words Don't Match Actions (Deception) › CrayScore Q70: Avoids Accountability / Blames Others (Responsibility, Weight: 4)

CLASSMATE / COWORKER | Scenarios 49 to 53

CLASSMATE / COWORKER #49 **Red flag or nah?**

The Credit Taker

You and a classmate worked on a group project for three weeks, and you did most of the research and writing. During the presentation, they presented themselves as the lead and barely mentioned your work. Afterward they told the professor the final slides were “mostly their vision.” When you raised it privately, they said you were “being oversensitive.”

ANSWER: RED FLAG

Taking credit for your work is dishonest, and calling you oversensitive when you object is a way of not answering. You usually can’t just stop working with a classmate or coworker, so the useful move is practical: make your contributions visible and on the record.

Ask the room: How do you raise this with the professor without it sounding like a complaint about a person?

Next step: Keep drafts and version history, agree on roles in writing at the start, and tell the instructor or supervisor what you contributed.

CrayScore Q13: Deflection & Projection (Emotional Stability) › CrayScore Q70: Avoids Accountability / Blames Others (Responsibility, Weight: 4) › SchemerScore Q26: Words Don’t Match Actions (Deception)

CLASSMATE / COWORKER #50 **Red flag or nah?**

The Other Group Chat

Your five-person lab group has an official chat. You find out three members also run a second chat where they share the TA’s hints, split up the good tasks and schedule study sessions. The two of you left out are the only international students in the group. When someone asks about it, the answer is, “It’s just a vibe thing.”

ANSWER: RED FLAG

People are allowed to have their own friendships and private chats. This crosses a line because the second chat is where the actual coursework happens, so two group members are cut off from information they need. And the people left out have something in common, which makes “it’s a vibe thing” hard to accept.

Ask the room: Where’s the line between a private friend group and shutting people out of the work?

Next step: Ask for all project information to go in the main chat. If it doesn’t, tell the instructor. If the exclusion looks tied to identity, your campus equity or bias reporting office handles that.

CrayScore Q39: Disregards Rules or Social Norms (Responsibility) › CrayScore Q14: Avoiding Responsibility When Called Out

CLASSMATE / COWORKER #51 **Red flag or nah?**

The Recommendation

Your TA has been friendly all semester and recently started texting you about things that have nothing to do with class. Last week they suggested drinks, “just us,” and added that they’re writing recommendation letters soon and like to really know the people they vouch for.

ANSWER: RED FLAG · SERIOUS

The TA has power over your grade and your recommendation, and has linked that power to seeing you socially. When someone controls something you need, saying no isn’t free, so a “yes” isn’t freely given either. It doesn’t matter whether it’s phrased as a threat or as a friendly hint. Tying academic benefits to romantic or sexual attention is a form of harassment that campus policies prohibit.

Ask the room: Why is it hard to say no here, even though nothing was demanded?

Next step: Save the messages. You can talk it through with a confidential resource first, or report it to the Title IX office or the department. You don’t have to confront the TA yourself.

CrayScore Q73: Enjoys Control or Power Over Others (Control & Coercion, Weight: 5)

CLASSMATE / COWORKER #52 **Red flag or nah?**

The Screenshot Sharer

A coworker is always in the know: who’s in trouble, who’s quitting, who’s dating whom. You recently learned that a message you sent them privately, venting about your shift schedule, was screenshotted into a group chat that includes your supervisor.

ANSWER: RED FLAG

You sent a private message to one person, and it was shown to a group without your consent, including someone with power over your job. That’s a breach of trust with real consequences. It’s different from reporting a safety concern to someone who needs to know, which is sometimes the right thing to do.

Ask the room: When is passing along something said in private the right call?

Next step: Tell them directly that it wasn’t okay, and adjust what you put in writing with them.

CrayScore Q55: Shares Others’ Private Information Without Permission (Trust) › SchemerScore Q26: Words Don’t Match Actions (Deception)

CLASSMATE / COWORKER #53 **Red flag or nah?**

The Overloaded Partner

Your group project partner is really trying, but they're behind, missing deadlines and visibly stressed. When you check in, they apologize and promise to catch up. You've redone some of their work to keep the project on track. They haven't asked you to cover for them. You've just been doing it.

ANSWER: YELLOW FLAG · DISCUSS

Nobody's behaving badly here. They're struggling and trying, and you've been quietly absorbing the extra work, which they may not even realize. Covering for someone in a hard stretch can be generous. It stops being sustainable when it's silent and open-ended. They don't owe you the details of what's going on, but you both need a plan.

Ask the room: How do you offer help without taking over, and set a limit without piling on?

Next step: Re-split the work based on what they can realistically do, and go to the instructor together if the timeline needs to change.

No scored behavior. They're trying, and they haven't asked you to cover.

TOP 10 GREEN FLAGS

What to look for in the people around you

Facilitator note: red flags get most of the attention, but knowing what good looks like matters just as much. Close with these. Ask the group: “Which of these matters most to you in a roommate? In a partner? Which is hardest to do yourself?”

1

They follow through on what they say

They do what they said they would do, even the small things. They show up when they said they would and follow up when they promised to. In a new connection, this is one of the clearest early signals you’ll get.

Dating · Friendship · Roommate · Classmate / Coworker

2

They take accountability without being prompted

When something goes wrong on their end, they say so directly. No deflecting, no blame-shifting, no waiting to see if you noticed. A person who owns mistakes without being cornered is a person you can trust in a conflict.

Dating · Friendship · Roommate · Classmate / Coworker

3

They make you feel heard, not managed

When you share something difficult, they don’t jump straight to solutions. They ask whether you want advice or a listener, and they let the conversation stay on you for a minute.

Dating · Friendship

4

They’re glad you have other people

They like that you have friends, family or a community of your own, and they don’t compete with it. This is about how they treat your relationships, not how many people they know. Someone with a small circle can be a great partner or friend. Someone who shrinks yours is not.

Dating · Friendship · Roommate

5

They respect your time

They don’t cancel at the last minute without a real reason, and when they’re running late they tell you. They act like your schedule matters as much as theirs.

Dating · Friendship · Roommate · Classmate / Coworker

6

They can disagree without it becoming a crisis

When they see something differently or they’re frustrated, they say it directly and calmly. They don’t go silent, get sarcastic or blow up. A person who handles small disagreements well is someone you can work through hard things with.

Dating · Friendship · Roommate · Classmate / Coworker

7

They're curious about you

They ask follow-up questions and remember what you told them last time. They seem interested in your answer, not just waiting for their turn to talk.

Dating · Friendship

8

They treat people with less power the same way they treat you

Watch how they talk to servers, to customer service reps, to someone who made a small mistake at work. Kindness toward people who can't do anything for them tells you something real.

Dating · Friendship · Classmate / Coworker

9

They give you space to be different from them

They don't need you to share all their opinions, like all their music or approach life the way they do. They're interested in who you actually are, and they take "no" without making you pay for it.

Dating · Friendship · Roommate

10

You feel like yourself around them

You're not editing yourself or managing their reaction to who you are. You can be honest about a bad day, a dumb joke or a real opinion without bracing for impact. That ease isn't a small thing.

Dating · Friendship · Roommate · Classmate / Coworker

A final thought for the group

Everyone is a little cray, and that includes you. The goal isn't to find a perfect person. It's to understand the mix you're getting, name what you're noticing, and make decisions you can stand behind. Green flags don't cancel out serious red ones, but they're worth celebrating when you find them. You deserve connections that feel safe, mutual and real.

Appendix A: How CrayScore Levels Work

Each card lists the CrayScore and SchemerScore questions it relates to. In the app, a result level comes from two things together: the total score across all questions, and whether any single high-weight question was flagged.

Level	App result label	Score	What triggers it
0	**No Concern**	0	Nothing flagged, no score.
1	**Slight Concern**	1 to 29	Low total, no flagged items.
2	**Moderate Concern**	30 to 59	Moderate total, no flagged items.
3	**Consider Leaving**	60 to 89	Total of 60 or more, or at least one Weight 4 question flagged, whatever the total.
4	**Run Away**	90 or more	Total of 90 or more, or at least one Weight 5 question flagged, whatever the total.

Weight	Severity	Effect on the result
1 to 2	Standard	Adds to the total. Not shown in the cues.
3	Medium-high	Adds more to the total. Does not trigger a level by itself.
4	High	One Weight 4 question triggers Level 3 regardless of the total.
5	Critical	One Weight 5 question triggers Level 4 regardless of the total.

How to use this in a session

Level names are the app's labels for a full assessment of one person across 74 questions. They are not instructions for a single card. The answer on each card is a teaching call about one scenario, so card answers and weights won't always line up.

In friendship, roommate and classmate situations, read "Consider Leaving" as "reconsider how much you put into this." In any situation where safety is a concern, the next step is support and a plan.

Appendix B: Sources and Further Reading

The explanations in this guide draw on public guidance from the organizations below. They are good places to send anyone who wants more.

Consent and capacity	RAINN, “What Consent Looks Like” and alcohol safety guidance. rainn.org/articles/what-is-consent
Forms of abuse, including financial control and isolation	National Domestic Violence Hotline, “Types of Abuse”; National Network to End Domestic Violence, “Forms of Abuse.” thehotline.org/resources/types-of-abuse · nnedv.org/content/forms-of-abuse
Safety planning	National Domestic Violence Hotline, “Plan for Safety.” thehotline.org/plan-for-safety
Stalking and technology	Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC), definitions and campus fact sheets. stalkingawareness.org
Romance and relationship investment scams	Federal Trade Commission, romance scam Data Spotlight (2022); Commodity Futures Trading Commission, “Investor Alert: Relationship Investment Scams.” ftc.gov · cftc.gov/LearnAndProtect
Threats to share intimate images	FBI sextortion resources and reporting. fbi.gov/sextortion · tips.fbi.gov
Animal cruelty and violence toward people	American University School of Public Affairs, policy brief on animal cruelty and intimate partner and family violence; National Link Coalition. american.edu/spa · nationallinkcoalition.org
Healthy relationships for young adults	love is respect, a project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline. loveisrespect.org

What Changed in Version 6

New cards	11 The Walk Home, 18 The Full Stop, 19 The Real Apology, 23 The Ex Who Won’t Exit, 28 The Phone-Down Person, 38 The Honest “Not Tonight,” 39 The Punchline, 51 The Recommendation. They replace The Permanent Victim (folded into card 20), The Empathy Gap, The Charming Chameleon, The Paranoid Accuser, The Midnight Ghoster, The Advice Ignorer, The Fake Support and The Constant Complainer.
Renamed or rebuilt	10 The Slow-Down Crisis, 21 The Fairytale Flip, 22 The “Under Control” Driver, 26 The “Just Content” Account, 27 Baby Names by Date Three, 29 The Reassurance Loop, 50 The Other Group Chat, 52 The Screenshot Sharer.
Answers changed	24 The Secret Keeper, 31 The One-Way Street and 42 The Passive-Aggressive Notes Person are now yellow. 22 is now marked serious.

Every card	Answers explain the behavior instead of predicting the person, and each card now has a question for the room and a next step. Scoring details moved to Appendix A.
Facilitator section	Added learning outcomes, ground rules, disclosure guidance, three ready-made session routes, a campus resource page and an exit check.