

Scheduling Conflicts

An awards ceremony for students who have earned high grades has been planned for an upcoming Friday evening. You and a classmate of yours named Adam have been invited after making it onto the dean's list last semester.

However, when you tell him you look forward to seeing him and his family at the ceremony, he says he won't be going because the timing of the event conflicts with his weekly observance of Shabbat as part of his Jewish faith. You feel bad he'll be missing this recognition and suggest he let college officials know in the hopes it could be rescheduled, but he tells you he'd rather not go through that hassle. "I still won the award and can list it on my resume and applications, so there's no need to be there," he says with a shrug.

For Discussion:

- What do you think of the college's plan to host an event of this nature on a Friday evening?
- Would it be acceptable for more casual college events to take place on Friday evenings, such as socials? Or should *all* campus events be avoided then and occur only at times without any cultural and/or religious conflicts? Share your rationale.
- As Adam's classmate in this scenario, would you let the matter drop, since Adam seems okay with the situation? Why or why not?
- Have you ever been unable to attend an event you would've gone to otherwise, due to a cultural or religious conflict? If so, how did you feel? If you're comfortable, share your experience.
- What do you think of Adam's perspective on this situation?