

## Fears About Mental Illness

A student named Kevin has confided in you that he found out his roommate Michael takes medications that appear to be for mental illness. Kevin says while looking for his phone charger, which Kevin had borrowed but forgotten to return before leaving for class, he looked in Kevin's desk for it and was surprised to come across two bottles of pills.

"Michael never mentioned needing medicine, so I found that weird. I didn't recognize the names of the medications, so out of curiosity I Googled them. I found out they're for schizophrenia," Kevin tells you. He says he now no longer feels comfortable living with Michael out of concerns for his own safety.

### For Discussion:

- What do you think about Kevin's actions?
- What are your thoughts on how Kevin feels about Michael's medications?
- Do you think Michael should have told Kevin about his conditions and treatment? Why or why not?
- What would you say next to Kevin in this scenario?

## Sensitivity and Compassion

You've recently started getting to know Pamela, a new adjunct instructor on your campus. One day over lunch, Pamela says she's having trouble with absenteeism among her students. She tells you that one freshman student emailed her that morning to explain he's been absent due to feeling depressed and borderline suicidal over the end of a long-term relationship.

"Can you believe that? How dramatic! Does he really think I'll excuse his absence over a breakup with his high school girlfriend?" Pamela says while laughing and rolling her eyes. She says she responded to him by reiterating the attendance and grading policies and telling him she expected to see him at their next class session. "He's lucky I haven't dropped him from the class or failed him yet," she adds.

### For Discussion:

- How do you feel about Pamela's response to the student?
- If you were the instructor of this class, how would you respond to this student? Are there any other actions you would take?
- What are your thoughts on the student's situation?
- How do you think you might feel if you were the student in this scenario and received Pamela's email?
- What would you say to Pamela in response to what she's just told you? Would you do anything else in this situation?