

Open your class with this Tomorrow

Directions: Provide students with the scenario presented below before discussing the Kitty Genovese case and the bystander effect to elicit a discussion regarding helping behavior.

Situation

Imagine that you are sleeping in your apartment when you hear something on the street outside of your window. It sounds like a women crying or screaming, but you are still groggy and are not sure about what you are hearing. You climb out of bed and look out the window to see a man standing over a woman who is either sitting or lying on the sidewalk. Many thoughts run through your mind. Has she fallen and the man is merely helping her up? Is he hurting her and she is screaming for help? Is she drunk and has fallen down on her way home (there is a bar just down the street)? Do they know one another or are they strangers? Are they having a fight? Was what you heard simply an argument?

Based on the information presented in the situation above, what do you think you would do? Explain the reason behind your decision.
