

Discussion Questions for *Absolute Value*

1. Nate and Gabrielle's parents are very different from each other. Whose parents do you think were "better"? Why?
2. Overall, was Gabrielle selfish or selfless? How about Nate?
3. Did Nate's parents treat him fairly?
4. Was Gabrielle's cynicism justified?
5. How do you think these characters might feel about their choices in a couple of years? In a decade? Consider this for Nate and Gabrielle as well as their parents.
6. Out of all the factors influencing Nate and Gabrielle's decision-making process, which ones do you consider to be most important?
 - a. Emotional health
 - b. Financial future
 - c. Relationship with each other
 - d. Relationship with their parents
 - e. Morality
 - f. Spirituality
 - g. Effect on other family members
7. Can you think of anything the characters should have considered, but didn't?
8. If you were friends with Nate and/or Gabrielle, what advice would you have given them?
9. Do you have strong beliefs about abortion? How much do your personal beliefs affect how you view the characters?
10. Is it possible to have a close relationship with someone who feels very differently than you do about the issue of abortion?
11. This story takes place in the Twin Cities around 2007. While the characters face many challenges, they do have access to resources and information. How do you think the story would change if that weren't the case?