“The Bystander Effect”

**First and foremost…**

What does it mean to be a bystander?

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**Are we or are we not…**

Obligated, as citizens, to lend a hand to those we see in need of help? Why or why not?

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**So what is it?**

Explain the bystander effect.

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**Why not help?**

List three reasons why people make the decision to be a bystander.

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**The least one could do….**

List three things that people could to help out in a way which would not bring any harm to them.

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**Responding to Literature**

Crises such as those described in "The Bystander Effect" are not the only events in which people behavior inappropriately. Think of another situation in which people sometimes fail to act responsibly. Write a response that explores the possible reasons for this failure. You could, for example, write about why children misbehave in public, why children have a lack of respect for elders, or why individuals fail to speak up when they hear hurtful words spoken to or about another person. Support your response with several explanations for the behavior, and be sure to provide examples that illustrate the point you are making.

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*Inspired by Janet M. Goldstein and Beth Johnson*