

Once upon a time, there were three girls who met at an IBECC Case Competition. Their names were Faith Raun, Verity Pond, and Jennifer Merton. After a long conversation, the girls come to realize they all have a shared love of traveling. Soon they find themselves planning a fun trip, but where would they go?

Remembering her favorite time studying abroad, Faith suggests they should go to Italy! The girls love the idea of traveling abroad and eating unlimited amounts of pasta, so they decide that they should all meet up at the DFW International Airport. Before embarking on their trip to the airport, the girls notice the absence of available flights and start to second guess their method of travel and destination. They also realize they do not have visas, and their uncertainty grows.

Upon further research into flights to Italy, Jennifer noticed many warnings about public health and safety throughout the national pandemic. The girls debated whether getting on the flight would be worth it if it meant catching the coronavirus or spreading it. They converse over whether being in close quarters on a plane and flying to a hot spot of the disease would be too much of a risk. They could catch the disease and get sick, and even if they would be ok they might spread the disease to others. They eventually decided that traveling by plane to one of the international hot spots Italy wasn't the best idea.

Verity then offers to bring the girls to Florida where she lives. Thinking this sounded like a wonderful plan B, Jennifer decided to shift her focus to looking at national flights instead. Again, she ran into the problem of many COVID-19 travel warnings. In the end, the girls decide to go by car. They thought a road trip could have fun benefits. Jennifer, Faith, and Verity each drive to a central meeting point and then head to Florida to go to Verity's house.

After many hours in the car, singing their favorite songs, and planning what they will do once they get to the beach, Jennifer begins to get hungry. Verity, also getting hungry, agrees and pulls the car into the next gas station. Faith and Verity run inside the convenience store to pick up everyone's favorite road trip snacks. Verity chooses Barbeque Lays, Faith chooses Chex Mix, and Jennifer chooses Pringles. As Faith and Verity are checking out with their purchases, the cashier sneezes into his hand. Wary of the spread of germs, Faith and Verity quickly take their purchases back to the car where they have a few Clorox wipes.

However, Jennifer had used some of the wipes to clean off the gas station pump, so there were only enough wipes left to clean two of the bags. How were the girls to decide which snacks should they save?

Each girl had picked out their favorites, so none of them wanted to give them up. Faith and Verity both agreed that the Pringles (Jennifer's favorite) should go because that was their least favorite of the three and in a cardboard packaging that could hold the coronavirus for a longer period of time. Verity also argues that she needs her snack because she is driving and could use the energy. Jennifer didn't understand why the girls were discriminating against her snack when it was her idea to get snacks in the first place. Faith did not even say she was hungry! After talking through it, they eventually came to the agreement that just because the snack was in a different packaging doesn't mean it was any less important and split a Clorox wipe in half, and everyone should still get to have their snack.

With everyone happy and full, the girls continued on their journey to Florida. When they reach the state line, however, the girls are stopped by border patrol. The Florida officers inform the girls that only Florida residents are allowed to pass. Verity tells them that she is a resident because she moved

here from Seattle a few years ago, but Faith and Jennifer are not. The officers let them know that they are not letting in non-Floridians because they are trying to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among the population. Verity tries again and asks if her friends could be allowed through this one time as they promise to only stay at her house. However, the officers will not allow entry, further telling the travelers that most beaches are closed anyway. Stuck with the dilemma of either sneaking into Florida behind the officers' backs or wasting the time spent in the car, the girls ultimately decide to avoid jail time and come up with a plan C.

They initially contemplate traveling to Seattle. Verity has told them all about the fun things to do and great places to eat in the area and it sounds like so much fun. But should they travel now with everything going on? Faith is tired of driving already and Seattle is a really long way from the border of Florida. Jennifer is excited to enjoy Seattle's food culture, but as the first hot zone of the coronavirus pandemic, Seattle's non-essential businesses are closed. Verity is especially concerned for the friends and other people in her prior home and doesn't want to interfere with the curve flattening that has already started to occur there. Again, their travel plans are thwarted and they decide on a plan D!

Jennifer suggests the girls go to Mount Washington to go for a hike since it was one of Jennifer's favorite past-times, and she thought the girls would love it too. Faith is still skeptical about the long drive and raises concerns about whether it would be safe for the friends to travel near a hotspot like Boston to get to New Hampshire. Faith and Verity are also really concerned about the potential that the travelers have to spread the virus if they were carriers. Jennifer really wants her friends to experience the beauties of the Mount Washington Summit and she is a big fan of the New Hampshire motto: "Live Free or Die!" She argues that as long as they take appropriate precautions like wearing masks and gloves and social distancing, they would be fine to travel. Plus, they will be in the outdoors camping in tents so they won't expose other people at the hotels. Besides, shouldn't they be able to move freely throughout the country? After all, liberty and justice are fundamental protections on which the country was founded. Faith and Verity are not convinced. Should personal liberty be protected at the expense of someone else's health? What if they got hurt on the trail as they hiked up or got caught in one of Mount Washington's notoriously dangerous storms? Should search and rescue teams have to risk not only the elements but the potential for COVID-19 infection as well? What if they can't summit and hike down all in one day? Could they find appropriate tent sites, since the huts on the mountain are closed? Is it safe to hike without the normal network of fellow hikers, AMC staff and facilities, and rangers? Plan E?

Faith and Verity convince Jennifer that any travel would violate the values that they all share. The friends discuss how it is important to protect both their own health and that of other people in the community. It is especially important to make sure that you are not placing undue burdens on an overworked health and protection system. A plan to safely return to work will be necessary at some point going forward, but travel for fun, without the ability to self-quarantine upon arrival for 14 days, does not seem to be justified, especially not to hot spots or remote locations that don't have the ability to handle your emergency. Safety is important to all three of them, and not just their own. The friends weigh up the costs and benefits and decide that those calculations don't support a trip now either. Any way you look at it, the trip these three want to take is not an ethical choice at this time. Deeply disappointed by the conclusion that they have reached, the girls decide to stay at home until it is safe to travel.

Maybe Faith, Verity, and Jennifer meet up via Zoom and share stories and pictures of the places they love. It's not the same as if they got to visit, but it is as close as they feel they can get. Should they plan a truly epic road trip once this crisis has passed? Did they make the right choices? What would you decide to do?