

## **Group Exercise #2: Give me a sign!**

In a staff meeting at the Rupert Giles Public Library, Fran, a circulation staff member complains that a particular library user is taking too long to leave the library at closing time. He waits until the last minute to start packing up his belongings and on several recent occasions the staff have had to wait a few minutes past closing time for him to leave. Fran says she wants to make a sign instructing users to begin gathering their belongings 15 minutes before the library closes.

Discuss as a group:

- Do you agree that this sign is needed?
- Is this the best way to resolve the issue or could there be other solutions?
- If you decide to make a sign, what would it say? [*Use the paper and markers provided to mock up a possible sign*]

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At the Sunnydale Public Library, users keep throwing garbage into the recycling bin. The cleaners have complained. In a staff meeting, Bob says, “well, obviously people are not noticing that the bin is for recycling only. We need a sign.”

Discuss as a group:

- Do you agree that this sign is needed?
- Is this the best way to resolve the issue or could there be other solutions?
- If you decide to make a sign, what would it say? [*Use the paper and markers provided to mock up a possible sign*]

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The Sunnydale University Library is implementing a new integrated library system (ILS). During the transition, circulation staff will temporarily be required to check out items in both the new ILS and the old ILS. The Librarian in charge of the project suggests that all circulation desks should have signs explaining that they are switching over to a new system and that

users should expect delays when checking out items. She says the signs should ask students and faculty to not be rude or impatient with library staff.

Discuss as a group:

- Do you agree that this sign is needed?
- Is this the best way to resolve the issue or could there be other solutions?
- If you decide to make a sign, what would it say? [*Use the paper and markers provided to mock up a possible sign*]

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The Sunnydale University Library has a collection of primary education curriculum materials specifically for students in the education program. The collection is heavily used. One staff member, Mary, has begun to complain that the shelves are “always a mess”, with items out of call number order because the education students put materials back when they’re done but not in the right place. Currently, there are small shelf labels that say “please do not reshelve items”. She thinks a much bigger sign is needed with large font that says “Do not place items back on the shelves”.

Discuss as a group:

- Do you agree that this sign is needed?
- Is this the best way to resolve the issue or could there be other solutions?
- If you decide to make a sign, what would it say? [*Use the paper and markers provided to mock up a possible sign*]

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It's final exam time at the Rosenberg Library. Last night, a pizza delivery guy arrived with a large, party sized pizza and approached the main floor reference desk. He interrupted the Librarian who was assisting a student and said he needed to know "where to find study room 6B" (it's on the sixth floor). He was impatient and annoyed with the Librarian when she said he was not permitted to bring the pizza to the study room. The next morning, the Librarian is upset about the incident and wants a sign put on the main door to the library that says "absolutely no pizza delivery permitted".

Discuss as a group:

- Do you agree that this sign is needed?
- Is this the best way to resolve the issue or could there be other solutions?
- If you decide to make a sign, what would it say? [*Use the paper and markers provided to mock up a possible sign*]

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The William Henry Pratt Public Library offers up to 3 hours of computer use per day for library users. A user with fines exceeding \$5 will be blocked from accessing the computer via the automated system. This amount is considered the threshold for an account in “good standing.” Although users must click “agree” to terms and conditions before the automated system allows them to log in, one patron is upset and has claimed the policy is not visible enough. The “good standing” threshold is part of the broader computer use and library lending policy. One librarian wants to put up a sign by the workstations that highlights this fact only.

Discuss as a group:

- Do you agree that this sign is needed?
- Is this the best way to resolve the issue or could there be other solutions?
- If you decide to make a sign, what would it say? [*Use the paper and markers provided to mock up a possible sign*]

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The Health Sciences branch of Sunnydale University has a coat rack in the main entrance of the library. It is unattended and out of view from staff. Recently, thefts have occurred both at the coat rack and in other areas of the library. Some library staff feel that it is time to put up signs letting people know that the library is a public space and that articles left unattended are the sole responsibility of the individual.

Discuss as a group:

- Do you agree that this sign is needed?
- Is this the best way to resolve the issue or could there be other solutions?
- If you decide to make a sign, what would it say? [*Use the paper and markers provided to mock up a possible sign*]

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The Alexander Harris Library is providing adult colouring pages and pencil crayons as a de-stressing activity for students. Close to the main entrance, a table has been set up with many colouring sheets and pencil crayons. The branch manager is concerned that students will simply steal the de-stressing materials and suggests some signage will prevent this from happening.

Discuss as a group:

- Do you agree that this sign is needed?
- Is this the best way to resolve the issue or could there be other solutions?
- If you decide to make a sign, what would it say? [*Use the paper and markers provided to mock up a possible sign*]