

## Mini Role Play #4, Vandalism

4 – 1

### Background information to be read to all participants

- At 3 p.m. last Wednesday, a neighborhood resident saw a young person spray painting obscenities on the wall of a building.
- The resident, who lives across the street from the building, reported the crime to the police and called T. Lee, the owner of the building.
- The youth was arrested and admitted to the offense.
- The damage to the building was extensive and will require hours of cleaning up and repainting to repair.
- It was decided that a conference would be held to deal with the incident, rather than going through the court system.
- All parties involved in the conference have participated in a pre-conference meeting and agreed to the conference norms.

### Required Characters

**S. Smith:** Has admitted to the offense but doesn't seem to understand its seriousness. S. is very nervous about attending the conference.

**M. Smith, S.'s Parent:** Shocked and upset by what S. did but is very grateful that S. will avoid court if the conference goes well.

**T. Lee, Building Owner:** Very angry about the incident. Wants S. to repair the harm. Is not sure that a conference is better than court but agrees anyway.

**C. D'Angelo, Neighbor:** Witnessed the crime and was upset at the obscenities spray painted on the building. Readily agrees to come to the conference to make sure the punishment fits the crime.

### Optional Character

**P. Smith, S.'s Sibling:** S.'s older sibling gets along well with S. but is very angry and upset by what S. did.

## S. Smith

4 – 2

- You admit doing the vandalism, but you do not realize the seriousness of the act and play it off as a teenage prank.
- You did the spray painting impulsively – for fun.
- ***At first, you are very anxious about the meeting. You smile instead of looking nervous and ashamed. As the conference progresses and you hear how your actions impacted the others, you express remorse.***
- As you listen to the owner of the building, your parent and others, you begin to realize how much your actions have affected other people.
- During the agreement phase of the conference, you are willing to accept any reasonable consequences and express how sorry you are.

*Please do not exaggerate your role and make it difficult for the facilitator to conduct the role-play conference. Most real conferences run smoothly and without extreme behaviors.*

*This script is to be read only by the individual playing the role.*

## M. Smith, S.'s Parent

4 – 3

- You are shocked and upset by what your child has done and the impact on the community and neighbors.
- **After hearing from all the participants, you direct a statement to S.**  
**You say: "I was surprised and hurt by what you did."**
- You have always worked hard to teach S. right and wrong, and you feel that you have failed as a parent.
- You readily agree to any reasonable consequences for your child.

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## T. Lee, Building Owner

4 – 4

- You are the owner of the building that was spray painted with obscenities and are upset at how this has impacted the community.
- You are angry that someone would do this to your building.
- **You start to feel better if S. apologizes, but you might be hard to convince.**
- During the agreement phase of the conference, you insist that S. pay for all the materials needed to make the repairs.

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### C. D'Angelo, Neighbor

4 – 5

- You saw S. spray painting the wall and are offended by the obscenities.
- You tell how you were shocked and disgusted by the obscenities.
- You worry about the graffiti encouraging other kids to commit vandalism in the neighborhood.
- You are somewhat relieved if S. apologizes.
- In the agreement phase of the conference, you agree with whatever the owner wants as a consequence for S.
- You also think it would be a good idea for S. to meet with some of the neighbors to ensure that S. will not do anything like this again.

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**P. Smith, S.'s Sibling,  
(optional character)**

**4 – 6**

- You are S.'s older sibling.
- You get along well with S., but you are very upset by what S. did.
- If your parent expresses surprise about what S. did, you agree strongly, mentioning that you think of S. as a “good kid.”
- In the agreement phase of the conference, you agree with whatever the owner wants as a consequence for S.

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*This script is to be read only by the individual playing the role.*