

Mini Role Play, Drug Use (optional)

Mini Opt – 1

Background information to be read to all participants

- A student named M. Goldstein was on the verge of being expelled, having had many problems in school for several years.
- The student was caught smoking marijuana in the bathroom by a teacher.
- The police were called, and M. was charged.
- M. was also suspended in accordance with the school's discipline policy.
- It was decided a conference would be held for M. to repair the harm when they returned to school.

Required Characters

M. Goldstein: Admits what they did was stupid. Seems to want to stay at school.

K. Goldstein, M.'s Parent: Has raised M. alone for most of M.'s life.
Is concerned about a possible drug problem and M.'s general misbehavior.
Agrees to come to the conference.

S. Samuels, Assistant Principal: Doesn't seem to have a good relationship with M.
Has dealt with M.'s behavioral problems all year. Is reluctant to come to the conference but agrees. Seems skeptical it will have a significant effect.

A. Beck, School Counselor: Has a great relationship with M. Has worked with M. in trying to change behavior.

Optional Character

A. Griffin, M.'s Friend: Seems concerned about M. Would like to be at the conference as a supporter.

M. Goldstein

Mini Opt – 2

- You have a history of misbehavior in school.
- You are angry about being on probation and struggle with why you are at the conference.
- You don't realize how your behavior has affected others at first but do admit to the offense.
- You have been raised by one parent, your other parent having left home when you were young.
- When your parent starts talking about how hard it has been raising you alone and how they don't know what they've done wrong in raising you, you are overcome with shame and sadness.

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.

K. Goldstein, M.'s Parent

Mini Opt – 3

- You are embarrassed to be at the conference.
- You have struggled to raise M. on your own as a single parent.
- You say how much you love M. and you don't know what you have done wrong in raising them.

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S. Samuels, Assistant Principal

Mini Opt – 4

- You believe in strong discipline for students.
- You are frustrated with M.'s misbehavior in school.
- When M. first speaks, you don't really listen to what they are saying.
- When it is your turn to speak, you start yelling that you don't think M. really believes what they did was wrong, that M. is just playing along to get out of trouble, and that you have reservations about M. being part of the school community.
- If the facilitator tries to stop you from shouting, stop immediately.
- When you are calm again, you admit that you have been very upset about all the students who have been caught with drugs in school.
- If M. begins to show remorse, you soften a little.
- If all goes well, you say, "If you're feeling bad and need a place to go, come to my office and talk."

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.

A. Beck, School Counselor

Mini Opt – 5

- You have a great relationship with M. and think they have more academic potential than they demonstrate.
- You have tried to work with M. in helping to change their behavior.
- You believe M. has a drug problem and think they should get a drug and alcohol assessment.

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

A. Griffin, M.'s Friend
(optional character)

Mini Opt – 6

- You agree that it was dumb for M. to get high in school.
- You tell M. you don't want to see them get kicked out of school because you like hanging out with them.
- You tell M. they are lucky to have this second chance.

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.

Follow-Up Notes
(Optional Mini Role Play, Drug Use)

Mini Opt – 7

Allowing for the expression of anger

- Ask the group how the facilitator handled the assistant principal's anger and yelling.
- Emphasize how important it is to allow the anger, at least for a little while, but to intervene, especially if the individual becomes abusive or accusatory.
- Talk about striking a balance between allowing emotion to be expressed and protecting the offender from abuse.