

## Large Role Play, Pepper Spray (optional)

LO – 1

### **Background information to be read to all participants**

- Two students sprayed an entire can of pepper spray onto the doorknobs of several school classrooms as a prank.
- The caustic smell of pepper spray soon pervaded the hallway and the principal had to call for an emergency evacuation of a whole wing.
- One teacher had a serious asthmatic episode brought on by the pepper spray.
- The two students were caught and admitted to the offense.
- The principal asked a school district social worker to facilitate a conference because the school administrators themselves wanted to participate as victims.

### **Required Characters**

**J. Breinig, Student:** Admits to the offense and readily agrees to the conference. Very ashamed about the incident.

**A. Breinig, J.'s Parent:** A. Breinig is extremely concerned with J.'s actions and readily agrees to come to the conference.

**D. Kirkland, Student:** Admits to the offense and agrees to come.

**C. Kirkland, D.'s Parent:** C. Kirkland seems reluctant to come to the conference and appears to be defensive about what happened.

**M. Jackson, School Principal:** Very angry about the pepper spray incident but confident that the conference is the best way to handle it.

**N. Hill, Teacher:** Had to be taken to the hospital because of an asthmatic condition. Was very distressed about the incident.

Optional Characters

**P. Stein:** J. and D.'s Soccer coach. Concerned for J. and D. and readily agrees to come to the conference to support them.

**B. Zito:** Believes in old-fashioned punishment but agrees to participate in the conference.

**T. Blanco, Student Council President:** Is angry at the offenders for spraying the pepper spray and thinks what they did embarrassed the whole school.

**H Bailey, School Counselor:** Seems disappointed in J. and D. Has been trying to help D. do better in school.

**B. Breinig, J.'s parent:** Seems very ashamed about what J. did. Expresses some anger toward J.

**D. Breinig, J.'s younger sibling:** Doesn't say much but is embarrassed by what J. did and says it was a "dumb thing" to do.

**Head Janitor, E. Christie:** Had to coordinate efforts to clean up the building. Thought it was a big hassle.

**Student, A. Rodriguez:** Felt nauseous after smelling the pepper spray. Thinks what J. and D. did was stupid.

J. Breinig

LO – 3

- You are very ashamed of what you did.
- You immediately apologize and agree to any reasonable consequences for your wrongdoing.
- You do not cause any issues during the conference and are very agreeable.

*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. Breinig, J.'s Parent

LO – 4

- You are extremely concerned with J.'s actions and readily agree to come to the conference.
- When you are asked to speak, you immediately begin to cry.
- You have trouble maintaining your composure and occasionally interrupt your comments with more crying.
- You are very upset about the incident and want to help address the problem
- You agree to any reasonable consequences for your child's wrongdoing.

*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.*

D. Kirkland

LO – 5

- You are scared about having so many people come together to talk about what you did.
- In the conference, you are humble. As you hear people talk about how they have been affected, you become ashamed.
- During the agreement phase of the conference, you suddenly admit that you sprayed some pepper spray on the door handle two weeks earlier, but nobody noticed it, so that is why you used so much more pepper spray this time..

*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.*

C. Kirkland, D.'s Parent

LO – 6

- You are reluctant to come to the conference. You feel very defensive about what happened and embarrassed that people will view you as a bad parent.
- Early in the conference, when the principal is asked to speak, you interrupt and express anger because J. said the principal called D. and J. names when they got caught, and you don't think that's any way for a principal to act. (You are not sure what names that they were called).
- Later, when it is your turn to speak, you apologize to everyone for what your child did.
- You readily agree to any reasonable consequences for your child's wrongdoing.

*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. Jackson, School Principal

LO – 7

- You strongly disapprove of what J. and D. did.
- You want to address it in a way that would get the message across to them and to others in the school.
- You are hopeful that the conference will have a positive effect on changing J. and D.'s behavior.
- You would like to see some consequences for the offense.

*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.*

N. Hill, Teacher

LO – 8

- You had an asthma attack because of the pepper spray. The attack turned out to be nothing serious, but you were very upset and shaken up.
- You can't believe students would do something so hurtful.
- You are not sure if they realized what they were doing.
- You want an apology and an assurance that nothing like this will happen again.

*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.*



P. Stein, Coach

LO – 9

- You want to be at the conference to support J. and D.
- They are both good athletes and positive members of the soccer team.
- You were very surprised by what they did..

*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.*

B. Zito, Assistant Principal

LO – 10

- You believe in old-fashioned punishment and express that view in the conference.
- You agree to participate in the conference because you want to have a say in what happens.
- As you watch the conference unfold, you realize that the offenders have been powerfully impacted.
- You become less concerned about the extent of punishment in the agreement phase of the conference than you thought you would be.

*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.*

T. Blanco, Student Council President

LO – 11

- You speak about how what J. and D. did was destructive and an embarrassment to the reputation of the whole school.
- You don't think they recognize who has been affected and want to make them realize this.
- As the conference proceeds, you are satisfied with the offenders' expression of remorse and support them in the agreement phase of the conference.

*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.*

H. Bailey, School Counselor

LO – 12

- You have been trying to help D. do better in school.
- You are optimistic that the conference will represent a turning point in the behavior of both students.
- You know both students from school activities and really like and respect them. You know they made a big mistake with the pepper spray.
- You offer all the help you can as the school counselor to make the agreement in this conference work.

*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.*

B. Breinig, J.'s Parent (optional character)

LO – 13

- You are really embarrassed about what J. did.
- You want to let everyone know how much you disapprove of what J. did and how angry you are.
- However, if you feel that people in the conference are being too tough, you point that out.
- D. and J. are good kids who generally don't act this way.

*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.*

D. Breinig, J.'s sibling (optional character)

LO – 14

- You are J.'s younger sibling. You are in sixth grade.
- A couple of kids have asked you if it was your sibling who sprayed the pepper spray, so you're embarrassed.
- You think what your sibling did was a "dumb thing" to do. You are usually proud of J.

*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.*

**E. Chrisite, Janitor (optional character)**

LO – 15

- You were responsible for coordinating the clean-up efforts. The clean-up was a major hassle to you and the rest of your staff.
- You also suffered a bit from the smell of the pepper spray.
- You are not overly upset, just overworked.
- As the conference proceeds, you feel sorry for the students and support them.

*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. Rodriguez, Student (optional character)**

LO – 16

- You feel kind of awkward being at the conference but think the conference is a good way to deal with what happened.
- You felt sick after smelling the pepper spray and think what J. and D. did was stupid.
- You want to let them know that you're still their friend. You know they will be able to learn from this.

*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.*