

Victim Offender Dialogue



PERSON WHO WAS HARMED

- I am a high school physics teacher who is frustrated by disrespectful behavior, I get distracted and angry and then I am unable to teach.
- On top of that, I had a migraine at the time.

Victim Offender Dialogue



PERSON WHO DID THE HARM

- I am a 10th grader and I was talking to my friends during class, and then the teacher called on me.
- Well, I like to get a laugh when responding to teachers, so I was smart, but I think the punishment was too hard: two days in-school suspension.

Victim Offender Dialogue



FACILITATOR

- I asked both the teacher and student if they wanted to talk before the student returns to the classroom.
- Then, I facilitate the meeting. I use an outline to keep track of the flow of the process. I write up the agreement that they both sign.



Family Group Conferencing

PERSON WHO WAS HARMED

- I am a student, at a middle school, a sixth grade boy. I have been picked on, kids have called me “girl” and “sissy” and worse. They grab me and make up rhymes. I don’t want to go to school here anymore.



Family Group Conferencing

MOTHER OF KID HARMED

- I am the mom of the boy who has been bullied. I want the bullying to stop so my son can sleep at night.
- I am glad for an opportunity to talk about this, because it has to stop.



Family Group Conferencing

PERSON WHO DID THE HARM

- I am a sixth grade boy, and I have been harassing this boy. The principal says it is sexual name-calling and lewd gestures, but I just thought it was funny.



Family Group Conferencing

SISTER OF KID HARMED

- I am here for my brother, and I am afraid to go to the middle school next year because maybe the same thing will happen to me.



Family Group Conferencing

PARENT OF KID WHO DID HARM

- I am just not sure what the big deal is - no one got hit. A few words—that happens in school. It did when I was a kid, and you dealt with it.



Family Group Conferencing

GRANDMA OF KID WHO DID HARM

- I am here to support my grandson—**not** his behavior. I want him to be good and stay in school.



Family Group Conferencing

FACILITATOR

- I have set up the conference – I talked to all participants before hand, and I facilitate the conference. I check up on post-conference agreements.
- I could be an assistant principal, liaison officer, counselor, community member, etc.



Family Group Conferencing

TEACHER

- I have heard and seen several incidents of harassment in the halls and on the playground.
- I feel uncomfortable standing in the halls when the kids talk and act that way.



Large Group Conferencing

PANEL MEMBER

- I am a high school student, a girl. I've been harassed almost daily since school started, called bad names about my sex and my skin color, two things I can't do anything about. I am one of 7 students who have talked to the dean about this problem.



Large Group Conferencing

PANEL MEMBER

- I am on this panel because I did harm. There were about 10 of us, mostly members of athletic teams.
- I guess we —I—have been doing sexual and racial harassment, calling people names, grabbing, stuff like that.
- I agreed to be on this panel because I don't want to hurt anyone any more.



Large Group Conferencing

PANEL MEMBER

- I am one of three community members representing the businesses and the faith organizations in the town.
- We are all concerned about the stories we hear, especially about the racial harassment. That is not what this town is about.



Large Group Conferencing

PANEL FACILITATOR

- I interviewed all of the concerned parties and selected the panel members to represent all sides.
- I facilitate the panel discussion of the issues and possible solutions.
- I take questions and statements from the assistant facilitators in the audience.



Large Group Conferencing

PANEL ASSISTANT FACILITATOR

- I am one of several assistant facilitators situated at the end of the rows of the auditorium.
- We pass out notepaper to get audience concerns, and then we summarize those comments, passing them on to the main facilitator to direct to the panel.



Peacemaking Circles

KEEPER

- I am one of 3 keepers for the community circle at the park in my neighborhood. The park director and I invited the girls and anyone else to come to the circle to help find a way for the girls to be safe.
- I start the circle with a reading or poem and then pass as a way of ensuring all can speak
- I keep the process going by posing new questions, and I help the group reach consensus.



Peacemaking Circles

PARK DIRECTOR

- I am concerned that five girls continue to leave the park even though they are enrolled in the after school program. They don't follow the rules and may get hurt going off park grounds.



Peacemaking Circles

PARK STAFF MEMBER

- I run the after school program and I am frustrated that these girls do not follow the rules.
- I am afraid that I will be blamed if they get hurt off park grounds—their parents will blame me.



Peacemaking Circles

SCHOOL BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST

- I work with three of the five girls at the elementary school, which is connected to the park.
- I want to provide support to them, and I am working with the park to use the same discipline approaches that the school uses: we use circles at the school, too. I think the consistency is good for the girls.



Peacemaking Circles

COMMUNITY MEMBER

- I am a member of the community circle that meets twice a month at the park.
- I don't want the kids at the park hanging around my boulevard flower garden and using it for hide-and-seek.



Peacemaking Circles

GIRL AT THE PARK

- My friends and I like to run around the neighborhood during the park after school time.
- Mostly, we just want to get away from the boys, and beside, I'm always hungry so we stop at the store for chips and pop.



Peacemaking Circles

OTHER POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS

In the circle could be:

- Other boys or girls from the park program
- Parents, if available
- Teachers from the school
- Staff from the store the girls go to
- Elders

Victim Offender Dialogue

VICTIM

- I am an elderly woman and my home was broken into and vandalized while I was at church.
- What was stolen? A couple of pieces of costume jewelry and a small television—both were in my bedroom.
- I am afraid to sleep for fear someone will come in, and I am afraid go out of the house even during the day.

Victim Offender Dialogue

SUPPORTER OF VICTIM

- I am a clergy person from her church.
- I have known this woman for years and I know how hard she has worked to maintain her independence.

Victim Offender Dialogue

OFFENDER

- I am a young adult living in the same neighborhood.
- I am still unemployed after looking for work for a long time and I am frustrated at not being able to buy or do anything that costs money.
- (After hearing from the victim at the dialogue) I am sorry that I scared the old lady. I wish that I'd never done it.

Victim Offender Dialogue

SUPPORTER OF OFFENDER

- I am a friend of the young man.
- I know he has been having a hard time and I guess I am sympathetic because I am having a hard time finding a good job too.
- I think he is a good guy who just couldn't take the pressure any more.

Victim Offender Dialogue

MEDIATOR

- I am a volunteer with a local community dialogue program.
- I have met separately with each of the woman and the young adult ahead of time to prepare them before setting up the dialogue.
- I facilitate the meeting, and type up the agreement that everyone will sign.

Family Group Conferencing

VICTIM

- I am an eighth grade girl who was bullied out of my field trip money by two older boys around the corner from school.
- One boy held my arms while the other boy threatened to hit me if I didn't agree to hand over the money.

Family Group Conferencing

MOTHER OF KID HARMED

- I want these boys to be punished for hurting my daughter.
- I want to punish the parents of the boys, too, who should keep better control over their sons.
- I want to be sure my daughter is safe going to school.

Family Group Conferencing

TWO OFFENDERS

- We are two brothers, one in eighth grade but habitually truant and one who was in tenth grade but dropped out.
- We don't like this girl because she acts like she is too good for us, and we wanted to scare her.

Family Group Conferencing

NEIGHBOR OF VICTIM

- I am here to support the girl and her mother.
- I have a child who goes to school with the girl and I worry about safety in the neighborhood, too.

Family Group Conferencing

FATHER OF OFFENDERS

- I am not sure what the big deal is - no one got hurt.
- I think that paying back the money and apologizing should be enough.
- I have already punished the boys for picking on a girl and I believe that is my right, and no one else's.

Family Group Conferencing

GRANDMA OF OFFENDERS

- I am here to support my grandsons and make sure they go to school.
- I don't think that their father is supervising them well enough and I think they're out of control.

Family Group Conferencing

FACILITATOR

- I set up the conference; I have talked to all participants separately ahead of time.
- I facilitate the conference.
- I will check up on post-conference agreements.
- I am part of a non-profit community organization that works with the juvenile justice system.

Family Group Conferencing

LOCAL PIZZA SHOP WORKER

- I heard and saw the boys try to bully girls several times.
- I think the local girls are mean too – making fun of the boys and being arrogant.
- I am afraid that the situation will escalate into fights in the restaurant.

Large Group Conferencing

PANEL MEMBER

- I am one of the six victims of car and building vandalism at a local city park
- I am a young professional person. I parked my car there to go jogging.

Large Group Conferencing

PANEL MEMBER

- I am one of the 5 guys who did the damage
- Some people think our club is a gang
- We scratched several cars, damaged some picnic tables, and smashed some windows of a park building
- We're all high school-age young men, 3 of us are not going to school

Large Group Conferencing

PANEL MEMBER

- I am a community member, one of 3 community people representing the school, the businesses, and the faith organizations in this town
- I am concerned about the safety of our children and the property at the park
- I'm concerned about tax rates and the cost of repair and security at the park

Large Group Conferencing

PANEL FACILITATOR

- I selected and met with all panel members
- I facilitate the panel discussion of the issues and possible solutions
- I takes questions and statements from assistant facilitators in the audience

Large Group Conferencing

PANEL ASSISTANT FACILITATOR

- I am one of several Assistant Facilitators situated at the end of the rows of the auditorium
- I pass out notepaper to get audience concerns and questions
- I summarize those concerns and pass them on along with the questions to the panel Facilitator

Peacemaking Circles

KEEPER

- I starts the discussion of the problem or issue
- I keeps the process going by posing new questions
- I helps the group reach consensus
- I bring the talking piece

Peacemaking Circles

BLOCK CAPTAIN

- I am concerned about one unoccupied house in the neighborhood and kids selling drugs in the driveway
- I tried to get neighbors to patrol and keep kids out, but they are afraid of making the dealers mad
- The sellers are local kids but I know they are under the direction of a dealer higher up from outside the neighborhood

Peacemaking Circles

NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR

- I'm frustrated that local kids are selling
- I am scared that I am at risk of violence living so close to the house
- I **wish** I could move but I can't afford to

Peacemaking Circles

PROBATION OFFICER

- I was assigned to the two kids accused of selling when they were arrested for fighting several months ago
- I believe they may have sold a little drugs, but I believe they are being forced to do it by someone else
- I want to provide support to them and to get to the person who is the real problem

Peacemaking Circles

COMMUNITY MEMBER

- I participate in all circles in the neighborhood
- Even though the two kids are legally adults, I think their parents have some responsibility for them
- I don't want the cops putting all the local kids in jail because they just learn to be better criminals there!

Peacemaking Circles

YOUNG ADULT MAN

- I am one of the two guys who sold a little marijuana to people who drive through the neighborhood
- We got the drugs from a gang member in a nearby neighborhood
- I thought that if I sold a little for him, he'd stop bothering me and consider me a friend
- I want to stop selling but I'm afraid to say anything to anyone about where I got the drugs

Peacemaking Circles

OTHER POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS

- Other neighbors
- Parents or siblings
- Teachers from the local school
- Local business people
- Religious leaders
- Youth group leaders

Corrections Reentry Program

- I am a middle-aged white man who was robbed of \$23.
- I was robbed at gunpoint with a 9mm handgun in the face in my own backyard. The young black robber was very angry, and during the robbery, I thought that I would die.
- Afterwards, my friends and family members kept telling me I was lucky “nothing happened”, but something did happen!
- I have been having nightmares ever since – about 8 months.
- **CONFERENCE:** After hearing from the young man and his family at the conference I no longer feared him. At the end I told him that I want to stay in touch and, when he comes home, I’m going to take him out to lunch.

Corrections Reentry Program

- I am the wife of man who was robbed; I was in the house at the time of the robbery.
- We have lived in the neighborhood for 10 years, and nothing like this has ever happened.
- My husband has not slept well at all since the robbery.

Corrections Reentry Program

- I am the son of the man who was robbed; I am the same age as the offender.
- I am concerned about Father's trauma and about how people are minimizing the crime—some people say we shouldn't be living in this neighborhood, what did we expect?

Corrections Reentry Program

CONFERENCE:

- I am an African American adult friend of the man who was robbed—I am here at the conference to give him moral support.
- Coincidentally, I know both the man's son and the offender; I was their elementary school principal.

Corrections Reentry Program

- I am a 16-year-old African American youth who robbed that man with my gun because I had just been robbed of \$200.
- I had the \$200 because I was dealing drugs.
- I was sent to the State Juvenile Correctional Facility.
- I asked to be in the program and go through the conferences because I want to tell the man I didn't intend to rob him.
- **CONFERENCE:** At a break during the conference I went up to the man to apologize again. When I held out my hand he gave me a big hug.

Corrections Reentry Program

- Here are some other participants in this conference:
- Westside Community Peacemaking Circle members
- Victim Services Advocates
- Correctional facility staff members
- Probation officer

Corrections Reentry Program Parents (need 2 readers)

- We are the parents of the offender. Both of us are stunned by our son's actions--no other child of ours has had trouble with the law.
- (Mom) I am so surprised by my son's admission of selling drugs that I just stopped speaking for the rest of the preparation conference/circle.
- **Conference:**(Dad) At first I discounted the effects of the crime on the man, but after hearing him describe at the conference how he was affected, I understood. Initially I was afraid he was trying to make trouble for my son but at the conference I learned he was looking for the best results for my son as well as his family. We became friends.

Corrections Reentry Program

- I am the grandmother of this young man. I attend the preparation conference meeting and the conference with the man he robbed, to support my son and my grandson.
- I am very worried that my grandson will end up in jail all his life and that is not what I want for my family.

Corrections Reentry Program

- I am one of the 2 brothers of the offender. We are attending the conferences to support our parents and brother.
- I am very surprised to hear that he was dealing drugs!
- I want my brother to work hard to change his life -- we do not want him in prison, because we love him.

Corrections Reentry Program

- I am the Corrections Reentry Program conference facilitator at the juvenile correctional facility.
- Together with the circle keeper for the Westside Community Peacemaking Circles Project I facilitate all of the conferences for this case: one with the victim, his family and community circle members; one with the offender, his family and community circle members; one where all of them came together; and a couple of follow-up ones with everyone.
- We have the meetings at their office in the community.

Family Group Conferencing

- Other participants included 20 of the 40 owners whose fish houses were vandalized, and one supporter for each victim.
- The father and/or mother of each of the perpetrators, and some probation officers.

Family Group Conferencing

- I am one of 10 teenage boys, who vandalizing 200 fish houses one Sunday night in January.
- I threw a microwave down a fish hole, and broke some doors and poles.
- I am very ashamed of embarrassing my dad, and I want to get a job to pay for the damages.

Family Group Conferencing

- I am one of 10 teenage boys who caused over \$20,000 worth of damage to fish houses.
- I just broke a few locks and took some tackle, but I did watch as others did more damage.
- I know it was wrong, but it's not such a big deal.

Family Group Conferencing

- I am a dad who is very embarrassed by my son's behavior.
- I am relieved that the case is not in court, but I want my son to pay for the damages and to do community service.

Family Group Conferencing

- I am the facilitator; I'm a County Sheriff's deputy. I interviewed all participants prior to the conference.
- I received the case because the County attorney did not think he had enough evidence to convict all participants
- Part of my job is to allow for a free flow of emotion during the conference.

Family Group Conferencing

- I am one of the victims who sustained \$8,000 worth of damage to my house.
- I am very angry at the boys and this facilitator.
- I am not sure that this conference will be useful, but I agreed to come to be sure they are punished.

Family Group Conferencing

- I am the adult son of one of the victims—the angry one. I am attending as a supporter of my dad.
- I see this crime in terms of the human loss: my bothers and I helped our dad to build the fish house over several years. Its meaning is more than the money or the materials.

Community Panel/Board

OFFENDER

- I am Bill, a 23-year-old man. I was charged with a Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). It happened in Middletown 10 months ago.
- I was on my way home from work and had a flat tire. I was on the side of the road changing the tire when a police officer pulled over to help me. He noticed that I was intoxicated and tested me for DWI. I registered a Blood Alcohol Count of .12 so he cited me.
- I had a prior DWI 3 year ago, I was put on probation and I completed it okay.
- My recent charge went to court and I was found guilty and sentenced to 6-18 months but the sentence was suspended, I was placed on probation, and I was referred to the Community Reparation Board.
- Yes, I had a few beers after work on my way home. But I don't know what the big deal is; I didn't hurt anybody.

Community Panel/Board

OFFENDER SUPPORTER

- I am Sandy, Bill's girlfriend. I'm here to support Bill. He's a good guy and never meant to hurt anybody. I know he will do whatever it takes to get through with this DWI thing.
- Sometimes Bill gets really angry and throws things and he yells a lot. That happens after he's been drinking. He's broken things in our apartment some of those times. He's pretty scary when he gets that way.
- I think Bill's got a drinking problem. I wish he'd get some help for it.

Community Panel/Board

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER #2

- **I'm Carlos; I'm a loan officer at First National Bank here in town. I'm here as a volunteer Community Board member because I believe in this process.**
- **Bill, you say it's no big deal because you didn't hurt anyone, but you just got lucky that day. If you hadn't had that flat tire you could have struck and killed someone, including my kids.**
- **I live on a road near where you had your flat and I've got 4 little kids who mean the world to me. (Showing wallet photos) These are my kids. I want you to know that your driving drunk scares the daylights out of me because any one of my kids could have been playing or walking along that road and you could have struck them or other people and hurt or even killed them.**

Community Panel/Board

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER #1

- **I'm Frank, a local farmer, and I'm a Community Board member. I want you to know that we're no better than you are. We're here to discuss with you how you've harmed our community and to figure out with you how you can make amends to the community.**
- **This isn't the first time you've driven while intoxicated. I think you've got a drinking problem you need to deal with.**
- **I know what it's like to have drinking problem because I'm a recovering alcoholic with 23 years of sobriety. I'd like you to think about going through a chemical dependency evaluation as part of our agreement, and I'd like you to agree to go to some AA meetings if that evaluation indicates you have a chemical use problem**

Community Panel/Board

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER #3

- I'm Maya; I'm a student at the Junior college and a Community Board member.
- As a member of this community I'm concerned about you driving while intoxicated. I want you to take this seriously and STOP that now. I've had friends who drove drunk and had bad accidents and I don't want anyone else to get hurt – even you!
- I hear Sandy saying that you get angry and throw and break things when you drink, Bill. I think you could learn to deal with your anger in a different way. I'd like you to take the course offered by the Probation Office about Anger Management to learn about that.