



OUR MISSION: Women and Youth Supporting Each Other empowers young women by providing the resources and support necessary to make positive life choices and create community change.

ACTIVITY: Mentorship Role Play

Mentor Training Component: 4. Working with Adolescent Girls

Overview: Role playing mentorship scenarios is a great exercise to provide mentors with WYSE-specific dilemmas which require them to draw upon their problem solving skills, explore various options for handling difficult situations, and further develop the necessary leadership traits of a successful WYSE mentor.

Directions: Divide into small groups (2-3 people in each). Each group will be assigned one (or more, if time permits) of the scenario prompts below. The group must work together to figure out how to best solve the problem at hand (8-10 mins). Then each group must act out their scene for the others, reading aloud their scenario prompt first. After each group acts out their solution, the activity facilitator should debrief with the entire group by asking the following questions:

- What was most difficult about that situation?
- Why did you choose to handle the situation in that way?
- What traits of leadership did you rely on to make your decisions?
- Are there any other options you considered?
- What outside resources did you consider using (e.g. school counselor, WYSE Board, parent, etc.)?

EXAMPLE SCENARIOS:

1. You have had your mentee for a few weeks now and one day she comes to session acting kind of strange. Later she tells you that she thinks she might be pregnant. How do you respond to this situation?
2. Last semester your mentee really enjoyed weekly sessions and the topics that WYSE was talking about. This semester, sessions revolve heavily around sex, birth control, violence against women, etc. and you've noticed that she seems really uncomfortable while at session. When you try to get her to speak up, she is too shy to participate. How do you handle this situation?
3. During the session about violence against women, your mentee – who is usually very talkative/upbeat and participates in session – seems very uncomfortable and quiet. After session you two are chatting and she seems like she wants to tell



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you something but ends up leaving without doing so. You are concerned about her but don't want to invade her privacy. How do you handle the situation?

4. You have a pretty good relationship with your mentee. She regularly confides in you and trusts you to keep her secrets. One day you get a call from your mentee's mom. She asks you about her daughter's relationship with her boyfriend (i.e. if she has had sex with him yet, etc.). You know from your mentee that she fights with her mom a lot about her boyfriend and that her mom doesn't trust her. How do you handle this situation?
5. You have a good relationship with your mentee and she trusts your advice. One day she tells you she is thinking of having sex with her boyfriend for the first time. She asks you about your sexual experiences but you're not sure if it's appropriate to share those details with her. How do you handle this situation?
6. It's your turn to facilitate the weekly session and you're super excited because you love the subject! However, when you begin the activities, the mentees seem uninterested, bored and distracted. Several of them are on their phones. The mentors tried to engage their mentees at the start but even they are beginning to give up. Energy is really low and there are still 2 activities left to do. How do you handle this situation and get the mentees engaged?
7. It's your week to lead session and you're really excited! During session everyone seems pretty interested in the topic and activities but there is one **mentor** who keeps having side conversations, texting on their phone and generally not paying attention. You are afraid that they are distracting mentees and other mentors from the session. How do you handle this situation?
8. You are planning next week's session with 2 other mentors. When you read through the WYSE curriculum you notice that some of the suggested activities for that unit are ones you have tried in the past and which did not go over well with the mentees. You want to make sure session is fun and engaging but do not want to repeat activities over again. What do you do?

NEXT STEPS: Encourage the mentors to continue discussing any larger issues that arise during this activity. Brainstorm a group list of the best ways that the situations were handled.