



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.

Leadership Scenarios (Role Play)

Overview: Leadership Scenarios – and role play in general – 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:

- Your branch is coming to the end of your second program year. Last year, the end-of-year banquet was held in the classroom with mentors and mentees. This year, mentors have voted that they would like to invite mentees' parents to the banquet, requiring a larger space, more food—a bigger budget. You didn't budget this into your annual allocation, but the Director Team agrees that this would be a great idea. How do you start raising money to put on the event that your mentors are looking forward to?
- You have received your first round of mentor applications—hooray! There are 25 applicants for 10 mentor slots. However, after reviewing the applications more closely, you notice that almost every applicant is from a Humanities major, only 2 applicants are Hispanic, and just 1 is black. You know that the majority of your mentees will be Hispanic or black. What do you do?
- It's midway through the fall semester and you have five members of the



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Director Team. You are about to start recruiting mentors and creating your session schedule. Seemingly out of nowhere, one of the directors tells the other members that she is too overwhelmed with her course load and will have to either take on fewer responsibilities or step off of the Director Team. As a team, what do you do?

- You have had two sessions in the semester so far. All 10 of your mentees attended the first two sessions and your mentors are really excited! However, at the third session, only three mentees show up. At session number four, just four mentees attend. Mentors are starting to get discouraged. You have mentees' permission forms but have not yet paired mentors with mentees. What do you do?
- During a particularly heavy session about discrimination, a mentee runs out of the classroom crying. You want the mentee to receive the support and space she needs to work through this moment. However, you also know that students are not allowed to be unaccompanied in the halls and that the vice principal, whose office is down the hall from the WYSE room, will likely punish the mentee if she gets caught. How do you advise her mentor? What do you do?
- After one session, a mentor tells you that her mentee arrived at session acting kind of strange and told the mentor that she thinks she might be pregnant. How do you respond to this situation?
- Before the session on violence against women, a mentee texts her mentor that she will be skipping session because "it hits too close to home." The mentor reports this to you. How do you respond to this situation?
- 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?
- You are part of the WYSE Directive Team this year and together you have decided to hold a bake sale fundraiser to make money for an upcoming event. Directors are assigned their tasks, but as it gets closer to the day of the bake sale, one director (in charge of coordinating the donated goods



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from mentors) has not responded to any emails, and none of the mentors seem to know what to do with their donations. This is your biggest fundraiser of the year, so you are concerned, but you don't want to step on the director's toes. How do you handle this situation?

- You have been assigned a big role as this year's Recruitment Director of WYSE! You start planning ahead, but then school starts, you have homework, tests, and other extracurriculars you need to do things for, too. You feel like you might not be able to manage all of your WYSE recruitment duties but you don't want to let your team down. How do you handle this situation?
- You have noticed at a few sessions that one of the mentors is using some inappropriate language in front of mentees (e.g. "that's gay," curse words, etc.). You don't want an ugly confrontation, but her behavior needs to stop. How do you handle this situation?

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