

Resources

Two people for each role play – one to be the employer and one the worker.

Task

Step One: Read through each situation. Think about the characters.

Step Two: Develop a script .

Step Three: Act it out.

Step Four: Have a class discussion about the right way to handle the situation.

Scenario I

WORKER'S STORY

Patrick works part – time in a local deli/fruit and vegie shop. He serves from the display fridge and has noticed that the light switch gives out some sparks when he turns it on and off. One time he gets a slight electrical shock. He tells his boss what happened to him.

EMPLOYER'S STORY

Ella is the owner of the shop where Patrick works. The shop is not making as much money since a large supermarket opened close by. Ella doesn't have a lot of money to go into repairs and new equipment. She's worried about how much this broken fridge will cost. Maybe they can just leave the light off from now on?

Scenario II

WORKER'S STORY

Laura is doing her work experience placement with a small legal firm. Catherine, a legal clerk, is the person she is to work with. She is given admin work to do but Catherine doesn't really explain how to do it properly.

When Catherine sees what Laura is doing, she tells Laura that she's doing it wrong, takes it off her and starts doing it herself. Generally, she's pretty rude to Laura or doesn't speak to her at all.

EMPLOYER'S STORY

John is the admin manager at the law firm. Catherine is the niece of one of the lawyers who owns the business. John thinks that Catherine's work is very good, but she can be rude and uncooperative. Her uncle thinks that she is great and she's always pleasant to the other legal partners. John has spoken to her about her manner and attitude but she never changes. He feels there is not much else he can do.

Scenario III

WORKERS STORY

Carla's work hours can sometimes be 10 hour shifts with only half an hour break. Sometimes there is only 6 hours between shifts for her. Carla feels very tired and are beginning to feel like she can't do her job safely. She wants to seem keen and so is nervous about raising the issue with her boss.

EMPLOYER'S STORY

Freddie, the owner of the hairdressing salon thinks it is so expensive to manage lots of employees. It is just easier to have fewer workers doing more hours. The work isn't demanding so it's not going to kill anyone.

Scenario IV

WORKERS STORY

Carl works for a manufacturing company where there is a lot of material dust in the air. He has a beard. His mask and respirator is faulty and there aren't any spares. He was told by his supervisor it'd probably be OK to work without one for the time being. He has decided to approach the boss about this.

EMPLOYER'S STORY

Jane has looked into buying new respirators and masks, but they are so expensive. She has decided to just wait until there is a need to buy some in bulk. It'll be cheaper and there isn't really any immediate danger.

Scenario V

WORKERS STORY

Steve helps out in the delivery of products for a large retail company. An older workmate, Harry drives the van. Steve thinks he is a dangerous driver who takes lots of risks on the road. Steve feels that Matt, the boss would not believe how bad his driving is and that it is quite scary to be in the van.

EMPLOYER'S STORY

Matt heard reports from a cranky old woman and a couple of store managers about Harry being a bit careless on the road. He's the only one currently employed to do the delivery job and he's never had any accidents or tickets.

Scenario VI

WORKERS STORY

There is a chemical Molly has to spray on to the plants at the nursery where she works. She has never been given training or seen a MSDS. The only PPE she has is her ordinary work uniform. The chemicals make her dizzy.

EMPLOYER'S STORY

Joyce, the owner of the nursery believes the only products that have to be sprayed onto the plants are pest control sprays that everyone uses at home. They're really quite harmless.

Scenario VII

WORKERS STORY

Amy is expected close the pizza shop where she works at 10pm. She doesn't feel very safe as it is a small shopping area and there aren't many people around.

EMPLOYER'S STORY

Jim thinks it's just so much more economical having one person close. It's quiet so there isn't a need to have 2 people on.

Scenario VIII

WORKERS STORY

Charlie is working for a stable and is responsible for cleaning out the stalls on a 40 degree day but she doesn't have access to cold water or enough breaks to cool off during the day.

EMPLOYER'S STORY

Adam is old school and sees that everyone has to work in those conditions. If Charlie wants to work in the industry she just has to accept it.