

Negotiating Boundaries

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Peer Leader Training
KAHSSO
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We will explore:



- How your experiences will benefit incoming students
- How your experiences may inhibit incoming students
- Communication skills as a strategy to avoid this
- The “Dos and Don’ts” of leadership

Why boundaries?



Why should we have
boundaries? Why should
we set them?

A word on boundaries



- Boundaries are important rules and guidelines that should be set out in order to maintain a **positive** and **healthy** environment.
- If you do not set strong boundaries, many of the benefits of the student-peer leader relationship are LOST!

What are some possible
BOUNDARIES that
should be established
with students?

A word on boundaries



- Contact information (emails, phone numbers)
- Meeting locations (e.g. office hours)
- Dating?
- Homework
- Money
- Accepting gifts?

How can you can say no?

What are some situations
in which this could be
useful?

Learn to say No



- **How**

“I’d rather not”

“There are other resources on campus that can help you with this issue”

“This goes against academic honesty”

- **When**

Tutee’s question is inappropriate to the setting/
situation

It goes against academic honesty

You feel uncomfortable

- **Scenario**

Tutee walks in and claims you taught her the wrong information

- **Scenario**

Tutee walks in and claims you taught her the wrong information

- Ask her what you taught wrong
- Analyze if what you taught was actually incorrect
- If the student is right, apologize and teach them the correct information

Reflection Exercise



- The successes and challenges you had as a York student
- The positive and negative experiences you had as a York student
- Someone who has had a great impact on you as a student

The Benefit of your Experience

How might your
experiences benefit an
incoming student?

The Benefit of your Experience

- How to talk to faculty
- How to make the most of classes
- How to get what you need from your readings
- Knowing the language and culture of university

The Benefit of your Experience

- Navigating the system
- How and where to get help
- How to get good grades
- How to make meaningful connections

Pitfalls of sharing your Experience

What are the drawbacks to
imparting
our own experience to others?

Pitfalls of sharing your Experience

- What worked for me may not work for others
- Academic rules change from year to year
- Can come across as patronizing
- Not about us! The focus should be the student
- We make assumptions and have biases
- We pass along our baggage and close off

A word on boundaries

- One short story...

The Parable of the Butterfly



The Parable of the Butterfly

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day, a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as though it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further. So, the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The Parable of the Butterfly

The butterfly then emerged easily, but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

The Parable of the Butterfly

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were nature's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

- **What is the moral of this story?**
- **How does this apply to the context of Peer Leadership?**

What do you think are
the **Dos** and **Don'ts** of
a Peer Leader?

Ethics of Leadership



Do be:

- A friend
- An advisor
- Pro-student
- Sensitive to uniqueness of each student
- Ready to share your experiences
- An empowerer

Don't be

- A buddy
- Condescending
- Anti-York
- Inconsistent in what you give your student
- Imposing your solutions
- A problem solver

References and Resources

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Final Thoughts



Please jot down 3 things you have learned from this module.

Thank You!