

Challenging Bystander Behavior

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

STAGES OF BYSTANDER BEHAVIOR

STAGE 1: NOTICE POTENTIALLY PROBLEMATIC SITUATIONS

STAGE 2: IDENTIFY WHEN IT'S APPROPRIATE TO INTERVENE

STAGE 3: RECOGNIZE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERVENTION

STAGE 4: KNOW HOW TO INTERVENE

STAGE 5: TAKE ACTION

BARRIERS TO ACTION OF BYSTANDER BEHAVIOR

(not) acting based on what everyone else is doing.

(not) acting out of concern for embarrassing self or someone else.

assuming someone else will take care of the problem.

(not) acting out of fear something will happen to you physically/emotionally.

(not) acting out of false belief that you are the only one who feels that way.

ROLES

NAYSAYER

This is the person who constantly makes excuses. The naysayer will read the scenario and then present arguments that would be typical from someone in the chapter who tends to find reasons why a change should not happen.

CHANGE AGENT

After the naysayer has made their objections, use one of the intervention strategies to talk to the naysayer and try to communicate what you want to see happen.

OBSERVER

Watch the interaction and make note of where the conversation was difficult. Provide feedback to the change agent on the intervention strategy, and additional recommendations on how the naysayer could be approached.

SCENARIOS

IT'S TRADITION!

Your chapter is planning a sisterhood bonding activity for new members. Currently the plan is for all new members to be escorted around to fraternity chapter houses to sing an embarrassing and crude chant with sexual references and promiscuous dance moves. When a few new members expressed discomfort with this activity, active members ignored them stating that the activity was tradition and every member before them has done this. What would you do if your chapter was planning an activity that may cause discomfort, but is tradition within your chapter?

BIG/LITTLE REVEAL

You are discussing with your big sister the chapter's plan for big sister/ little sister reveal coming up in a couple weeks. The chapter has decided to allow each family to choose how they want to participate in the reveal. When discussing this with your big sister, she suggests that the family should have a clue hunt for the new members that leads to finding their big sisters. However, your big sister thinks to make it more fun and interesting the clues will include activities like getting a picture of new members taking

shots with fraternity men, stealing items from around campus, etc... all while wearing an outfit that the family will select. You are uncomfortable with this idea because it will be making your new little sister participate in activities that may make her feel uncomfortable or potentially even get her in trouble. How would you approach this conversation with you big sister?

INITIATION RITUAL

Your chapter is about to get ready for the initiation Ritual. However, this year, the chapter has plans to blindfold all new members and to drive them around town as a way to disorient them and frighten them before the ceremony. Many members think this is a fun idea and a way to increase the excitement and mystery around initiation. However, you think some members might get out of hand with this type of activity and do not understand why frightening new members would be a part of the day. When you bring up your concerns with a few members that this might be hazing, many respond back saying "It's not hazing if you're not physically harming them, so it's fine!" How do you approach this topic with your sisters? What would you propose as an alternative activity to provide some excitement for new members?

NOTES