Managing and Resolving Conflict

MBI Learning & Development



Attacking the Person

What this looks like...

I make assumptions about who you are Statements made that evaluate the person

I disregard your worth and dignity

I disregard your intrinsic values and desires (or assume they are less than ideal)

You must lose so that I can win.

I use words like "always" and "never" to describe what you do.

I naturally assume that my perceptions and assumptions are correct (or more valid than yours).

I assume that you are the problem, and that I have nothing to do with it.

I talk about you to other people before I talk to you.

I lobby for support and build a case against you.

"You are lazy"

"You are so unprofessional"

"You don't understand"

"He is a very difficult boss"

"You are insensitive"

"Because you didn't seem to care about the report, the whole department looked bad." "You always disregard my opinion"

Attacking the Problem

What this looks like...

I make factual statements about what you do.

I focus on specific <u>observable</u> and <u>measurable</u> behaviors.

We define the problem in terms of the impact of behaviors and outcomes needed.

I validate your values, worth, dignity, abilities, goals, etc.

We discuss how your behavior impacts our customers, our mission, our work, etc. (We appeal to a higher goal).

I assume that my own perception of the situation is probably not 100% correct, so I approach you with an open mind.

I assume the best in you.

I don't bad-mouth you to others.

I come to you first.

We agree on solutions to resolve the problem - this is not compromising, rather, but it is consensus.

"When you were late yesterday ..."

"You promised it would be done by Wednesday, it is now Friday, what can we do to complete it?"

"He does some things that I don't agree with"

"What you said struck me as insensitive"

"I know you want to serve our customers, and..."

"When you said that, it made me feel as though you didn't care about my opinion"



The Redirection Meeting (Coaching Conversation)

Describe problem clearly and without blame
Show its negative impact.

Mutually discuss alternative solutions.

Mutually agree on action to be taken to solve problem.

Express trust and confidence.

Follow up to measure results.

Praise progress when it occurs.

Performance Coaching

Traditional

vs.

Partnering

- Manager-driven
- Parent-to-child
- HR exercise
- Personality
- Vague goals
- Yearly event

Gets Compliance

- Employee has input
- · Adult-to-adult
- Manager's tool
- · Results
- Specific objectives
- On-going

Gets Commitment



One Minute Reprimands

Characteristics:

- > Be immediate!
- > Never Gunnysack-deal with one behavior at a time.
- > Learners: Don't reprimand learners.
- > Be tough on performance, never tough on the person.
- > Describe the poor performance the specific behaviors.
- > Let the employee feel how you feel.
- > Encourage employees, let them know that you value them.
- > Let them know that it is over! Then focus forward.
- > Toughness: Sometimes you have to care enough to be a little tough.
- > Be open and honest with them.
- > When you end a reprimand with a reaffirmation, a person's "okayness" is still intact. They learn from the situation and it prevents them from diverting the blame to you.

We Are Not Just Our Behavior, We Are The Person Managing Our Behavior