Peer Mediator Training
Student Workbook

Mediation—Go for the WIN-WIN!

1. Agree to follow the ground rules
   - Do not interrupt
   - No name calling
   - Tell the truth
   - Work hard to solve the problem

2. Communicate about the problem
   - Use "I statements"
   - Listen actively
   - Understand the other person’s viewpoint

3. Brainstorm for solutions
   - Be creative
   - Look for common ground

4. Resolve the conflict
   - Find a WIN-WIN solution
   - Firm up the solution

Name ___________________________ M.I.T.
Peer Mediation Training _______ ____ , at ____________________School

MarJon Mediation Services
jcurwen@curwen.org

This workbook is assigned to___________________________________.

Please return it to the office when not using it for mediation-related activities. A web
version of this entire curriculum is available for viewing at all times at: www.curwen.org
Use it as directed at all of your mediations and mediator meetings. You will do many activi-
ties today with this workbook. Thank you for volunteering to help your school by becoming
Peer Mediators. You will make a difference in your school.

What Makes a Mediator?
by Tap Stevens

There's training, tough and lengthy,
For there's know-how and there's skill,
There's long years of experience,
The essence to distill.

There's a heart that's ever open
To feel the other's pain,
Insight of knowing one's
Own secret self-disdain

There's hope that comes from knowing
That behind that anger, lurks
A potential smile of sheer relief,
For one knows forgiveness works.

Mr. Goodwrench and Miss Fix-It
Won't really do you see;
It's the secret of empowerment
That sets combatants free.

It's the heart that really listens,
It's the "unknown way" that's new,
That enables for to do themselves,
What they came to you to do.

Marlene Curwen, MFT, School Psychologist, Hart District, (retired)
Certified Mediator, Los Angeles County, CA

Jon Curwen, School Administrator, Hart District, (retired)
Certified Mediator, Los Angeles County, CA

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Conflict (to strike together) Management Continuum

Some origins of conflict:

**Relationships** each person brings in their own separate interests.

When our interests clash (strike together) we have conflict. All relationships of any kind will have some sort of conflict. WE CAN MANAGE IT!

All learning (schools are for learning) involves change. This may cause conflict. Growth + Learning = Change. Expectations may “violated” >>> conflict happens!

Examples of conflict...

*Relationships are where learning opportunities occur as “classrooms.” Mediators can help disputants find the correct teacher for the “classroom” we call conflict. Mediation is the means, then, for disputants to rediscover their decision maker and decide on a different “teacher” to interpret the events of the “classroom” of their life.

The Conflict Management Continuum

Decision maker - more options

**Peace** Thoughts Become Possible

Shared Interests

A focus on feelings affecting disputes helps to dispel them and that helps disputants to “see” past the blinding anger of conflict to the possible change of minds about the issues.

Negotiation

Arbitration

Lawsuit

Self Help

War-Fight

Choose to Ignore

Avoidance

Discussion

Mediation enables us to “fly” over the conflict line of battle from separate interests to a focus on shared interests. BUT, we must use good communication skills to get through disputants’ defenses to help them.

If our communication skills are off target (hit a windmill blade of defense) the focus of the mediation drops down to here in the world’s way of trying to fix problems which does not work as well.
Let’s Start Listening!

A. Please start by completing the “All about Me” information below. Wait for your group to finish.
B. You will then take turns sharing this information within your small group (quad) until all have spoken and all have listened to each person while taking brief notes about what is shared. Oldest person first, and then each shares in turn in a clockwise fashion.
C. Then, each person in the group will listen as the others restate what they heard the person say in “B.” Groups decide who “listens” first. Our goal is to begin to see how well we listen, as a team, to each other.

A. All About Me
1. My name is __________________________
2. My birth date is __________ ____ , 19 ___
3. My city and state of birth is __________________
4. My favorite sport or activity is ____________________________________
5. My favorite food is _____________________________________________
6. After school, I like best to _______________________________________

B. My brief listening notes as others share all about themselves

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C. Each person in the group now listens to the other three as they share what they now know about the person listening. They may refer to their notes as needed. They cooperatively share what they heard you say and try to get everything that they heard you say, reflected back to you. When they are finished, note (below) how YOU feel about how well your group listened as you shared your responses in “B.”

___ Great!  ___ Pretty good  ____ OK  ____ So - so

Great mediators are great listeners!
Mediation Video* Guide

For now, simply watch this video and enjoy seeing great mediators at work. Their style is our goal for you today. Act like them as you play your part as mediator today. At the end of today, we’ll look at the questions below to see how much we’ve learned.

Second viewing only: (Pg. M8) - Group review questions, 1-9 below as we watch the video again. This time we may pause the video every so often so that we may answer the questions below. See how “neutral” the mediators behave.

1. What do the mediators say to begin the mediation?

2. What ground rules are explained to the two boys who are in dispute?

3. What did the mediator do when the no interrupting rule was broken?

4. Each time that you hear an active listening skill used by any mediator, put a mark below. (An active listening skill is anything that is said to help the speaker tell his/her story.)

5. Hidden Agendas are called “underlying interests” in the tape. What sort of questions did the mediators use to uncover this information?

6. Describe any shared interests (common ground) between the boys that you saw in the story.

7. After each boy told his side of the story, what question did the mediators ask?

8. How did the mediators say what needed to be discussed after the boys both told their stories? This is called the ____________________.

9. After the boys seemed to be done telling their stories, what kinds of questions did the mediators begin to ask?
Overview

Until we have “walked in another’s moccasins” we do not have the wisdom needed to fully understand that person’s situation. To that end, we provide a chance to role-play the situations of mediator and persons with a dispute. Only then are we ready to put theory (what we’ve just explored, so far) into practice.

The complexity of another’s life is impossible to describe in what follows so it is imperative that YOU add your own “spin” to the mentalities as you act out your roles. Yes, to act out is so important as we help each other to develop our skills in the mediation process. Be real, but be ready to act cooperatively (e.g. give in, apologize, agree, etc.) after a short while so that each of the six (6) steps of mediation can eventually be practiced by the persons role-playing the mediator. Use appropriate body language of an angry person, at first. Then relax as you tell your story and release your anger. Cooperate with each other as you play your roles in good spirit. We will switch roles often as we go step by step, at first. - see Steps, below.

Roles & Process – presenters will assign steps, scenarios (and mentalities, if time permits) which are in your folders. MITs will write information into this workbook as well as onto the Mediation Journal as directed.

Each of us takes our turn at being a mediator trying to resolve a situation between two disputants. An optional role (depending on the number, 4 or 5, in our group) is observer who provides feedback to the mediator(s). Observers rotate into mediator & disputant roles also. Groups will rotate roles as directed. We will change roles back and forth all day!

The scenario...

The disputants, Pat & Kelly, have experienced a problem and now appear before the mediator to attempt to resolve their conflict. The disputants arrive with anger and misunderstanding as well as hidden agendas which help to intensify the conflict. The mediator knows little or nothing of the scenario and mentalities involved and must use the steps and procedures of the mediation process to understand what is going on and to help the disputants to do the same and to resolve their conflict. Here are the steps to mediation that we will study closely today.

1) Opening Statement - Welcome and ground rules agreement.
2) Initial Statements - Each disputant tells his/her story.
3) The Agenda - The main issues to be discussed are identified.
4) Brainstorm - 2 very different parts
   A) Get all of the story and anger, etc. expressed - “a controlled nuclear reaction.”
   B) Each disputant is encouraged to try meet the other’s needs - “peace talks.”
5) Agreement building - write out who will do what & when type sentences
6) Closure. - Nice end to mediation

About Pat & Kelly and their dispute... Here’s ONLY A START to the missing iPod story in graphic form.

What a mess! They really need our help as mediators. Let’s learn how we can help!
Structured, Step by Step Mediation, Process Activity/Instruction

An r older model iPod appears to be missing. Its owner, Pat, loaded 100 songs on the iPod by purchasing them from the iTunes Music store at 99 cents each. The iPod was a gift from a favorite uncle who died last week. The school's basketball team captain, Kelly, who is athletic, but not articulate, asked Pat, who's smart, but not strong, if s/he could borrow it for last week's school dance. S/he was trying to impress a “best friend,” friend Alex by showing Alex that music from an iPod would work through the DJ's sound system. Pat, who is shy, always helps Alex with algebra, but is a loner and mostly interested in computers. Alex really appreciates Pat's help with algebra. Pat tried out for, but failed to make, the basketball team. Pat earns steady money as a math tutor. Kelly often earns money assisting a local DJ during weekend gigs, but the income is uncertain.

Kelly now says s/he can't find the iPod. The school's policy states that any item borrowed on school grounds must be returned to the owner. Kelly's father is a sheriff and Pat's mother is a relative of the school's principal. Pat is now bad-mouthing Kelly at school, the Boys & Girls' Club, and around Alex. Kelly in turn, is threatening to, “never” find the iPod. The two have been friends since 3rd grade except for one time when Pat accidentally embarrassed Kelly in public by laughing at an attempt to figure out a math problem a long time ago. They attend the Club after school and usually participate in activities together without any problems. Now there are bad feelings at school, home and at the Club. The two have been referred to school mediation.

NOTE: The names of Pat, Kelly and Alex are used to make you comfortable in your role-plays during training. You may apply your own gender to each character as you play and switch roles. The use of S/he allows MITs to be of either gender. The character of Pat is “smarter” (but not so tough) while the character of Kelly is “tougher” (but not so smart). Alex, while a figure in the story, is not played by anybody. The two mediators complete the set of four (4) roles. We will switch roles often during training, BUT stay with the iPod issue until it is a completed mediation.

And so we have the roles for each group. Pat, Kelly, and the two mediators. The mediator roles are described in “Getting Ready.” Potential witnesses such as Alex are NOT used in mediation. This is not a trial! It's a Win-Win activity!

Initial Group Roles are assigned. Oldest MIT is CO MEDIATOR, then going clockwise is RECORDER, then PAT and finally, KELLY.

Any fifth person, is observer, to begin with. Then that person, when roles switch, is fully active on team of mediators. Everyone is a full participant today. Please ask for help if you need it to make this work in your group.

Getting Ready

MEDIATORS
DO NOT DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH EITHER DISPUTANT BEFORE THE MEDIATION BEGINS!
1) Have your mediation folders and two (2) Mediation Journal forms and 2 pens/pencils.
2) Arrange your chairs around your table so that disputants are equally close to you.
3) Decide who will keep the official written record (recorder) with signatures.
4) The other mediator is then the co mediator. BOTH (or all) mediators fully participate!

Mediators ready?

PAT & KELLY
1) Locate the page titled, “Let’s Pretend.”
2) Find the second paragraph (it’s in the shaded border box) and read it carefully.
3) Follow those instructions carefully and thoughtfully.
4) Re-read the iPod dispute above, again. Look at the graphical description at the bottom of the “Let’s Pretend” page. WARNING: Payback time comes when you play mediator roles! Follow the instructions! Play your part well, but fairly!

Pat & Kelly ready?
Welcome, Opening Statements & Mediation Rules Agreement

If you haven’t done so yet, please take out a Mediation Journal from your folder - back inside pocket. We will use the Journal, section by section, as in figures 2 & 3, below. Along the way, we will take time out to learn the skills we need to become mediators. This coming year, the journals that you use during your mediations will be similar in process “flow.” Today’s form has lots of helpful hints to guide us and you MAY use it during the year.

1. What will your welcome sound like? How will you ask for their names? Your eye contact?

2. Which of you will “invite” them to try mediation? When do you decide this?

3. Who will print their names on the “official written record?” (recorder). Which disputant name goes where? Why?

4. Do YOU fully understand the “Rules of Mediation?” Let’s review them anyway. Do you understand the last line at the bottom which begins, “If information...”? Why is that there?

How many “little agreements” do we have already as we get them ready to sign? ______. Where should each disputant sign?

PRACTICE

Each MIT will now practice steps 1-4 including gathering signatures. Pat, Kelly, recorder and co mediator are the roles (as discussed on previous page). Once done, rotate roles 2 places clockwise and repeat “process.” This will give each MIT a chance to play a role as one of the disputants and as one of the mediators. STOP after you get signatures. Switch roles. Repeat steps 1-4, then STOP.

Questions before we start? Be certain that you always know where to find your journal today for when it’s your turn as mediator.

5. NEXT: We must decide which disputant (X or Y) will begin first. But, how do we do this? Now, and throughout?

6. The journal has some terms that we must understand before we can go farther with our role play ….

TRAINING

We need to develop some skills now. Step 5 requires this! Hard work ahead!

We have need to learn about:

- Active Listening - more than just hearing! pages: ALP, ALO, ALW
- Non-verbal communication - body language flash card activity only
- Open style Questions - not just, “yup” & “nope” answers page: OQW
- Hidden Agendas - “What’s behind all of this?” large group demonstration AFTER we role play Initial Statements.
Some Useful Probes for Active Listening

No judgement, no attack! Use these probes with great care!
Use them as needed - gently, kindly and in any order.

CLARIFYING STATEMENTS & QUESTIONS . . .
1. Help me to understand what are you trying to say?
2. Tell me a little more about that.
3. I am trying to understand when you say ____________.
4. I am not sure I know what you mean by that.
5. How do you feel about what was just said?
6. What are your feelings right now about that?
7. You appear concerned about ____________.
8. You appear not sure of ____________.
9. You seem (happy, angry, threatened, etc.) about that?
10. What are some of your ideas about ____________?
11. Oh? . . . (followed by your interested silence & eye contact inviting more info)
12. What do you think might be behind that?
13. What are some of the ways you have handled such situations before?
14. How have you thought you might go about it? (that which the disputant is proposing)
15. What are some of the things (ideas, feelings, events) that seem to bother you?
16. How is this different from what you expect(ed)?
17. How is this (situation, feeling, experience) like others you have had?
18. Reflecting their ambivalence (you might say, “you feel this, but on the other hand I hear you saying…”).
19. This is what I hear you are saying, then ____________
20. This seems to be how you feel. ____________. Am I close?
21. I wonder why that is so. Any thoughts?
22. What are some of the other things or ideas that we might explore?
23. Anything else you would like to add?
24. Will you please give us an example?

more ideas:

RESTATING & REPEATING IN YOUR WORDS WHAT YOU HEARD . . .
25. I have the impression that you feel ________.
26. I think you are saying ________________.
27. To me you seem to be saying ____________.
28. I hear you saying ________________.
29. Let me see if I understand, ____________.
30. You are feeling pretty _______ it seems.
31. I wonder if this might be what you are saying ________________.
32. It seems that you have been telling me that ____________.
33. I get the impression that ________________.
34. Let’s see if I have this right. Some of the things you have been saying are ____________.
35. Then the way you see it is ________________?
36. You appear to be saying/feeling/wanting/hearing. . . ________________.

Your repetition of what was said.
Your repetition of what was meant.

more ideas:
Two Active Listening Opportunities
(Used with our Active Listening Worksheet)

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER OFFER SOLUTIONS OR YOUR IDEAS!  IT’S THEIR PROBLEM!

Questions asked, and statements made, by mediators help to bring out information and to clarify information which has already been shared. Using your Active Listening Worksheet, you will think of two or three questions (or statements) which will help you as mediator to bring out more information and/or to better clarify what has already been said.

Jon & Bob Conflict

Background  Jon wears his watch to school every day, but usually keeps it in his backpack or his gym locker during PE. Several hours after his last gym class, he could not find his watch in either place. A few days later, he noticed that Bob was wearing a watch, “just like” the one he lost. He accused Bob of stealing it. Bob denied stealing the watch, and now Jon is bad-mouthing Bob to his friends.

Jon  “Bob is a no-good liar and thief. He stole my watch and has the nerve to wear it to school. I’ll get even for this...”

Claudia & Marlene Conflict

Background  Claudia and Marlene are in the same art class. Claudia has worked long and hard on a clay sculpture. Marlene picked it up, without asking, to look at it. Marlene dropped the sculpture and it broke into several pieces. Claudia then begins to shout in class:

Claudia:  “Look at what she did! I told everybody not to touch it! I’m going to find something of hers and smash it! We’ll see how she feels when something of hers gets wrecked!”
To actively listen we often have to ask good questions and/or offer statements which help those in conflict better express themselves and to tell their story. It’s sometimes hard to simply look at a list of questions or statements and choose the best one. We often need to invent them during a mediation. In this exercise, we will get a little practice inventing our questions. We will use the stories from the Two Active Listening Opportunities sheet. Listen and read along as each story is read. Then, AS A GROUP, write 2 or 3 questions, or statements, below, which will help the disputants to tell their story or communicate with the other disputant.

**NEVER, NEVER, NEVER OFFER SOLUTIONS OR YOUR IDEAS! IT’S THEIR PROBLEM!**

### Jon & Bob conflict

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**NEVER, NEVER, NEVER OFFER SOLUTIONS OR YOUR IDEAS! IT’S THEIR PROBLEM!**

### Claudia & Marlene conflict

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Open Questions Worksheet

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER OFFER SOLUTIONS OR YOUR IDEAS! IT’S THEIR PROBLEM!

We want our questions to draw out as much of each disputant’s story as is possible and so we use open questions. Open questions are often a series of questions which help disputants to better tell all of their story which helps us as mediators! Below are some closed questions and some open questions. Re-do closed questions by drawing a line through them. Then, replace them with a series of open questions which draw out facts AND feelings which will then help us to help them!

Examples:

closed: Do you like her?
open: Can you describe what you like or don’t like about the way she acts? ... Why?... How does it affect you?

1. Please explain how you felt when you discovered that your bike was missing? ...What did you think at first? (This is an OK question--it CANNOT be answered simply with yes or no.)

2. Did you break his iPod? (This is a poor question because disputant COULD answer “yes” or “no”)

3. He just said that he thinks you won’t help him wash the car. ...What is your response to that?.... Help us to understand why your think or feel that way?

4. Are you certain? (An example of a leading question--MITs think of a follow-up question below)

5. She just said that she thinks you’re mad at her. Did you hear that?... Can you tell us if and why you are angry with her?...How do you feel? What’s going on? (A good “facts” and feeling question series)

6. Did she hear you correctly?

7. Help us to understand what happened next... And then what?... How did you feel then?

8. Are you responsible for his injury like he says?
Initial Statements from Disputants

The first disputant to speak was determined on our last page (M2, step 5). Mediators now allow each disputant to make his/her Initial Statements and take brief notes above. The columns above are small so one must listen carefully and write only key information. Always end with, “Is there anything else?” If so, keep going until the disputant seems to just be repeating information. They should feel “COMPLETELY HEARD.”

MITs playing Pat & Kelly act out their roles as directed in, “Let’s Pretend,” paragraph 2.

Mediators, it’s OK to go slow and use your notes. Do 1-5 during each (Pat & Kelly) statement....

_1. Take brief & concise notes during EACH disputant’s Initial Statement
_2. Enforce rules of mediation if they are broken.
_3. Try three (3) active listening responses for each disputant here (revisit ALP if needed),
_4. Note body language (mentally) of each disputant at beginning and end of initial statement.
_5. Use three (3) open style questions with each disputant (revisit OQW if needed).

STOP & WAIT when both mediators have completed & checked off 1-5 above.

We will switch roles after questions & discussion.

Former mediators now review the parts of iPod dispute (you’ll know most of it if your were really listening). The recorder becomes Pat. The co mediator becomes Kelly.

MIT formerly playing Pat will become recorder & MIT formerly playing Kelly will become co mediator. While they wait, they should study notes and prepare to do items 1-5 as mediators.

Any questions as to who plays which role? Ask facilitator.

Pairs will be directed when to switch

1. Did any of the disputants get off of the subject during the Initial Statements? What does one do?
2. Were you as mediator “accurate” in your active listening responses? If not, why not?
Hidden Agenda Role Play Parts to be used with M4
Only two participants will read these lines. We will then study this conflict.

PAT Starring in this role is ________________

Hidden Agenda Role Play
(wait for your cue)

PAT says:

Kelly is a brainless glob of protoplasmic muscle. S/he borrows items from others and then s/he conveniently “loses” them. S/he is so immature.

KELLY Starring in this role is ________________

Hidden Agenda Role Play
(wait for your cue)

KELLY says:

Pat’s a stupid weirdo and a stinkin’ liar. S/he thinks s/he’s so smart, but everybody thinks s/he’s a “nerrrd-o” and so do I!!! Nobody likes Pat.
Hidden Agendas & Shared Interests

How many “little agreements” do we have now with our dispute? _______.
In steps 5-8 each disputant has made his/her Initial Statement which we have in our Mediation Journals. Each MIT now has this information. We are almost ready to move to step 9 which is creating the Agenda, but we need some training, first in the area of Hidden Agendas.

What is really causing trouble here? What we see doesn’t seem to be the REAL issue, sometimes.

Hidden Agendas - the “Engine” of the Conflict Beneath the Hood??

TRAINING

ROLE-PLAY & DISCUSSION - Hidden Agenda - 2 volunteers, please
As Pat gets ready to leave for school, Pat’s mom seems concerned that the iPod that Pat’s late uncle left Pat is missing. She says, “Don’t tell me that you lost it too? You’re always losing things! It seems that your head is stuck in your computer and you’re absent minded like the nerds on TV.” Pat leaves for school angry at mom and feeling trapped in a difficult situation about the iPod that s/he lent to Kelly earlier.

Kelly received an “F” in math, again, and has been grounded from all social activities until the grade is raised to a “C” at least. No more dances like last week’s which was so cool. Kelly’s father says to Kelly that Kelly’s head is, “…hollow like the basketball he bounces day and night. What about doing some class work someday instead of thinking about dances and basketball?” Kelly leaves for school feeling bummed out from the grounding and his dad’s comments along with not knowing the whereabouts of Pat’s iPod.

Although Pat and Kelly have been seen arguing a little lately, today seems OK as they quietly board the bus for school sitting together, as usual. Some muffled words are exchanged. The next thing we see is that they are pushing each other in the aisle of the bus. The upset bus driver radios ahead to the school assistant principal.

Pat and Kelly eventually end up in our mediation...

*** Parts are now read by our volunteers. . .

CLASS DISCUSSION:
What do you think caused them to react the way they did on the bus?
Was that apparent to the bus driver or other students at the time?

What do we term this phenomena? Answer: __________  _________

Can you detect any hidden agenda possibilities in our Missing iPod mediation information so far?

What question(s) might we ask to draw out Hidden Agendas?

Maybe these will help . . .

You seem angry . . is that right?
What seemed to be happening before this incident?
Can you describe your feelings toward _________ before this incident? Any “old” anger?
Can you tell us about it to help us all to understand?

CAUTION: Do not assume any hidden agendas. Let disputants tell you of any that might be here.

_______________________________

TRAINING

Shared Interests* (common ground) - The Light at the End of the Tunnel??

May be positive experience or may be negative experience.
May be a common interest, a common belief, a common expectation …

Look for a “common thread” which could unravel this knotty problem of conflict.

*An “interest” is not just something that interests us. It can be something that affects us, or has an impact on us, whether or not we are “interested” in it. We may not be “interested” in studying air quality, but it does impact our lives, regardless. Shared interests “unite” us in some way, consciously and unconsciously. Separate interests keep us focused on separation. Mediators who look for shared interests can often find the “Royal Road to Resolution” through, or within those shared interests.

The next two pages ( 15 & 16) discuss shared interests and how our seeing them for angry disputants can add them to our count of “little agreements” and get them on THEIR Royal Road to Resolution.
Looking on Common Ground for *Shared Interests*

Step I

**CONFLICT**

**THEY AGREE TO A MEDIATION**

Step II

![Diagram showing common ground emerging from separate interests](image)

The mediation *process* allows them to look at, and listen to, each other and to rediscover their common ground and to better see their *SHARED INTERESTS* which were hidden. Each *little agreement* along the way creates more common ground to help them to see their shared interests better. This leads the disputants toward agreement while reducing anger.

*Miracle Moment*

Step III

![Diagram showing shared interests emerging](image)

Step IV - Two relationships in conflict

1) Mike & Pete on the soccer team.
2) Sandy and Karen need the sink.

*We look for common ground.*
Practice Finding the Common Ground of Shared Interests

**Mike & Pete**

Mike and Pete have lived in the same neighborhood for several years, but never have gotten along very well. They are often rivals, especially when involved in neighborhood activities requiring athletic skills, such as street hockey or skateboarding. They frequently get into fights trying to "show each other up." Now they are both on the school's soccer team. They find it difficult to work together and constantly argue during practice. The coach has threatened to kick them both off the team.

What is important to both Mike & Pete? (Shared Interests)

What if they can't control their fighting?

How important is it to BOTH of them to stay on the team?

What can a mediator use/suggest in this situation given the information here and what we have discussed so far?

**Sandy & Karen**

Sandy and Karen are twin sisters. It's Saturday night and both are planning to go to the movies with a group of mutual friends. Sandy must get the dishes washed before she can go out. Karen wants to wash her hair and the sisters are arguing over who will use the sink. Sandy says, "If I don't get these dishes washed right away, I'll be late." Karen responds, "But I must get my hair washed quickly—I don't have time to take a shower. I think Sean will be there and I want to look good.

What does each girl want? Is there anything in common? (Shared Interests)

What kind of relationship do these twins probably have normally?

Is it important that they maintain their relationship? Why?

What can a mediator use/suggest in this situation given the information here and what we have discussed so far?

**CLASS DISCUSSION:**

In the information gained from listening to our iPod mediation disputants during initial statements, can we see any shared interests or common ground at this point? List them below, briefly.

How can we count them as "little agreements" as we move along in our mediation?
Setting our Agenda - Focusing, Neutralizing & Balancing

Setting the Agenda, Neutralizing, and Balance (again) will now be addressed as we now narrow our focus.

A goal of this practice is to learn how to focus on the things that we REALLY need to discuss in our mediation. We must separate them from all the other information we have heard and seen during the Initial Statements. We will use a “focus funnel” to isolate the items that are most important for our final agenda - see figure 6 below.

As we use the focus funnel, we use a special techniques called, neutralizing. Neutralizing is used to bring down the emotions of a mediation now that we have the stories told. Please be certain that your Agenda Box items that you decide to focus upon in the practice below reflect neutralizing, as needed.

Here's a neutralizing example: “She called me a bitch, so I called her a pig.” These insults, if they are referred to in any way from now on, are simply, “words exchanged.” We don't want to “re-upset” anybody as we mediate. During brainstorming, disputants may use emotional language, still. If it’s used again by disputants, we as mediators gently suggest that we ALL change the words to neutral terms so that we can solve our issues faster.

One more goal is balance. Each disputant should see his/her issue(s) in the Agenda Box.

PRACTICE: Please enter items under discussion onto THIS page. We will transfer information to the journal as we work a bit later.

Current mediators in each group of four:
1. Discuss with your partner, briefly, what 1 or 2 items (in real mediations, there may be more) from hearing all of the Initial Statements what will need to be in the Central Box for brainstorming. List each disputant’s possibilities here (arrow). List each disputant’s finalist (= most likely) choices here.
2. Be ready to ask Pat & Kelly if they agree with you. They are having the same discussion for practice.

**Current Pat & Kelly in each group of four:
**1. Discuss privately between the two of you, briefly, what 1 or 2 items YOU think (from all that you have heard and said so far) will need to be in the Central Box for brainstorming. List each disputant’s possibilities here. List finalist choices here.
2. Be ready to compare your list with the mediator’s list when they ask you.

**(This is a special disputant activity for today only - real disputants usually too upset to cooperate in this manner at this point.)

Mediators and disputants jointly (all 4) develop a consensus agenda list which is now written into the central box, carefully following the directions on the mediation journal, item 9.

FOR TODAY’S TRAINING ONLY, decide upon one (1) material item and one (1) relationship item.

STOP. Please wait here for more directions...
**Agree on Agenda, Look at the Items and the Conflict**

A class discussion will now determine our agenda for ALL quads. Enter the items in the Central Box below, in figure 7.

How many “little agreements” do we have now if this was an actual mediation? ____

---

**Figure 6**

**Please switch roles** within your group as follows:

Pat & Kelly return to mediator roles, BUT, whomever was recorder before, is now co mediator.
Mediators return to same disputant role - Pat or Kelly - that they were before.

New mediator recorder transfers Central Agenda Box items to back of the Mediation Journal by writing them in the box, upper left, titled, “Agenda Items from other side.” - see figure 8, below.

**Figure 7**

Our workshop use of the Mediation Journal continues on the back of the Journal. At this point, all MITs should have our (for training purposes, only) two agreed upon agenda items written in the upper left box.

**Practice**

11. Brainstorming and Discussion - may be smooth and may be rough. DO NOT OFFER SOLUTIONS!

a. Mediators get Pat & Kelly to agree on which Central Agenda Box item to talk about first. It may be an “easy” one first. OR, it may be the most “important” one that makes the others “easy.” So, how many “little agreements” now? ____

b. Begin to focus the discussion on the chosen agenda item - use the helpful question ideas on Journal item 10.

c. Stick to THE chosen agenda item until it is “settled” i.e., you have a rough idea for the an AGREEMENT for it.
   If anger persists, get it out with Active listening, feeling questions, etc. Look for shared interests (common ground) for agreement ideas.

Note the agreement requirements in area “12. Rough solution points…” box on the back of the Mediation Journal.

d. STOP when you have developed one (1) rough idea for solution that helps both disputants, somehow. It may sound like, “if s/he does this, the other will do that.” Or, it may be take two (2) two sentences to state the one idea.

When directed, we will switch roles again and work on the remaining agenda item. But please wait . . .
Switch roles back again! The new mediator diad co mediator becomes recorder, and the recorder becomes co mediator.

**PRACTICE**

Steps a, b, c are **repeated with the other item** (we only have two today) to be discussed within our NEW quad roles.

Follow the SAME steps and directions in A, B, and C above just as the other mediator diad did. Draw out **ONE** mutually beneficial idea for a solution from the disputants. Disputants **MUST** be responsible for THEIR solution to THEIR issue.

When we are done here, EACH diad will have created one (1) **MUTUALLY** beneficial **rough** solution idea.

Each QUAD will then have **two** which they (all) record in the Mediation Journal in section 12. “ROUGH solution points…” Please wait patiently if you finish early.

Each MIT will have one ROUGHLY stated solution to their agenda item written in area 12 of the back of the Journal. See figure 9 below.

A class discussion is next. Current mediator recorder will share your quad’s solution ideas with the entire class. Our class discussion will develop the two solution ideas with which we will work as we move toward writing the solutions in formal agreement language of who?, what? when?, where? , etc. For now, please wait quietly.

**CLASS DISCUSSION:**

**Recorder mediator** from each quad will share his/her 2 rough solution ideas with the whole class. Rough ideas will be discussed by class and consensus of “best” two (2), all told established for our next PRACTICE. Each quad offers two ideas, but we all come away with the class choice of two (2) for the next step of converting our class consensus of rough solutions into formal agreement language.

Material Agenda item stated in ROUGH terms: ______________________________________________________

Relational Agenda Item stated in ROUGH terms: ______________________________________________________

**END OF ROLE PLAY PORTION OF TODAY’S WORKSHOP, BUT KEEP YOUR IDENTITY (MEDIATOR OR DISPUTANT) AS IS CURRENTLY**

Translating **ROUGH** language into **FORMAL AGREEMENT** language.

Pat & Kelly work together on MATERIAL issue solution. Create one or two sentences that are beneficial to BOTH Pat & Kelly. For example: Pat agrees to do __________________ while Kelly agrees to do __________________ . **Sentence(s) MUST be specific as to WHO, WHAT, WHEN for certain. May include HOW & WHERE.**

Mediators work together on RELATIONAL issue solution. Create one or two sentences that are beneficial to BOTH Pat & Kelly. For example: Kelly agrees to: ________________ and Pat agrees to ______________________ . **Sentence(s) MUST be specific as to WHO, WHAT, WHEN for certain. May include HOW & WHERE**

Practice writing in this area, below. When you are satisfied with your sentence form, transfer it into figure 10, next page.
Agreement Writing, Closure and Mediation Video

PRACTICE
As directed on M7, transfer your formal agreement sentences into the field in figure 10. Also, listen to, and transfer, the other diad’s formal agreement sentence onto this page in figure 10. Please wait for a class discussion of the two sentences from each quad. Be ready to make suggestions and corrections during the class discussion. Youngest MIT is reporter.

CLASS DISCUSSION:
Volunteers are asked to read their quad’s formal agreement sentences. Discuss, correct, comment upon by class and presenters.

Closure - When it’s Over . . . It’s Over!!

TRAINING
Trainers model the reading of the terms of the agreement to disputants and ask if both understand the terms before directed to sign the agreement on the lines below - figure 11.

MITs each practice saying this closure: “Thank you for working hard to settle this dispute. This is a confidential (private) matter and we ALL need to keep it so. Others may try to stir things up again - ignore them. If you need to come back for any more mediation about this or another problem, contact the office. The office will provide you with a copy of the agreement as soon as possible to help remind you of what you agreed to today.” NOTE: As you become more comfortable as a mediator, you may use your own words to wrap up your mediations. Except for the “official” Mediation Journal which is given to office personnel to copy, all notes are now destroyed. Thank you for helping your school to be a safe place today.

TRAINING
Sit back, relax and watch the mediator video that we saw earlier. Have the MVG page handy to see how much you have learned today. Today is a start. Your school’s mediation coordinator ___________________ will have meetings throughout the year to help you in your work. www.curwen.org has even more information about mediation for you, your parents and friends—including all our teaching notes as well as today’s workbooks and posters. It’s good review. You may feel nervous during your first mediations. “Fake it ’til you make it!—Play your part!” You have the skills and tools to do it now.
active listening
listening in a way that tells the speaker that we ARE listening and tells the speaker what we heard or are thinking about what they said, helps the disputants to clearly explain the problem and to understand each other’s point of view, see Active Listening handouts.

body language
posture, body positions and “looks” as we listen or speak, give viewers much information.

brainstorming
sharing ANY idea that comes to mind without judging it good or bad.

closed question
a question which can be answered with a simple response such as, “yes” or “no” and which doesn’t give us much information to help us discuss the problem.

common ground
(see shared interest, below) something the disputants can agree on or something they both want that can become the start of a possible agreement to a conflict.

conflict
difference of opinion, argument, or fight about some thing, some incident, or somebody - not getting along with each other. The world appears to be driven by conflict if one believes the news. Fear is at the root while attack and scarcity thoughts are its branches which we can see.

cooperative
working together to solve the problem.

dispute
see conflict, above.

disputant
person in conflict with another, not getting along with that person for some reason.

ground rules
ways that we have to behave to help us to make the mediation process work well.

hidden agenda
something that is bothering the person that he or she does not feel comfortable talking about but which may be part of the conflict. It may be partly unconscious.

“I” statement
a good style of sentence to use when we are expressing ourselves and when we are using our active listening skills. We, as mediators, work to get disputants to use “I” statements as a way of de-escalating the conflict and promoting healing communication.

impartial
being totally fair with each disputant and treating them equally in all that we say or do.

mediation
getting disputants to discuss their dispute orderly, completely and peacefully and to find their own solutions and to make an agreement which is fair for both disputants.

mediator
person who is trained to help people settle their disputes and who offers no solutions!

neutral
same as impartial, one who does not take sides in a dispute and never offers advice to anyone.

open question
a question which causes a disputant to give information which helps all of us to better understand how the disputant is feeling or thinking about parts of the dispute.

party
see disputant, above.

resolve
to settle a dispute through a process such as mediation leading to agreement.

resolution
the actual details of the settlement of the dispute.

separate interest
a belief or focus on only getting something for one's self at a cost to another person, i.e., “one or the other” attitude. Based on the false scarcity principle (“there's not enough”)

shared interest
something the disputants can agree on or something they both want that can become the start of a possible agreement to a conflict. Very important overall concept!

“You” statement
words that can make another angry (and feel attacked) when they think you are accusing them of something when you say them.
More Mediation Role Play Ideas
(Used as time permits or for follow-up activities this year)

There are 16 possible scenario/relationship combinations below. In your group of four, two students play the roles of disputants while two are co-mediators to the dispute.

For example, combination 3-C would then be Roberto and Alex who are former best friends having a dispute mediated by two of you. When told to do so, switch mediator-disputant roles and pick another combination, as directed. As time permits, switch roles and combinations again. Use the same guidelines as stated in Let’s Pretend... (Overview)

**Scenarios**

**WAZHAPPENIN’?**

1 - JASON/Tony - Jason and Tony, who have been classmates throughout elementary school, almost got into a fight in their classroom. Tony had “lent” Jason his Jay Z CD and after several weeks had gone by, Tony asked Jason to return his CD. Jason told him he couldn’t find the CD but didn’t feel he should replace it as it was his understanding that Tony had given the CD to him as a gift and not as a loan.

2 - MARIA/SAMANTHA - Maria and Samantha tried out for the lead role in the school play. Maria got the part and Samantha got a secondary part. At the rehearsals, Samantha keeps blowing her lines and missing her cues and seems bent on making the production a disaster. The girls get into an argument, yelling insults at each other. The drama teacher tells them they either must settle their differences or they both will be out of the play.

3 - ROBERTO/ALEX - Roberto and Alex are classmates. Roberto has been going with Celina since the middle of summer but when school begins he decides he wants to break up with her so he can meet other girls. Celina is heartbroken and turns to Alex for advice on how she can win back Roberto. Alex consoles Celina and after a few days they become inseparable, Roberto becomes jealous and confronts Alex. He tries to provoke a fight with Alex by shoving him and calling him names but a teacher sees them and intervenes before a fight takes place.

4 - LINDA/CHERISE - Linda and Cherise are assigned the task of planning a party to celebrate Linda’s birthday. They are deciding who will be involved. Linda wants to involve Maggie but Cherise doesn’t. Cherise says Maggie has no personality and nobody in their planning group would like to have her around. Linda and Cherise get into an argument and are avoiding each other. They talk about each other to their friends. The friends feel caught in the middle and want things the way they were so they ask for mediation for Linda and Cherise.

**Relationship Histories**

**THE WAY WE WERE**

A - BEST FRIENDS - great expectations of the other. You have shared your deepest feelings – made yourself open and vulnerable. How could this best friend be betraying you at this instant? What seemed to be the only thing right in your life seems to be turning sour. The love/hate shift is occurring for now. What was once a deep, caring and trusting friendship full of energy now has that energy flowing in a negative, hurtful direction – inward and outward.

B - NO PRIOR SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP – usual uncertainties about self as adolescent, you bring your own personal “baggage.” You have your own personal positive feelings about yourself and what you know is “right.” Your involvement, protective shell of sorts is being penetrated, You mean no harm but you’re not going to be a victim or a “chicken,” either. You’re puzzled at what seems to be developing. This always happens to others, not you!

C - FORMER BEST FRIENDS – The hurt of the break-up is below the surface, simmering a bit at times as you see the other mingle with new friends. There’s a nagging anger below the surface and you feel rejected by your former friend or disappointed that they let you down earlier. There are issues and irritations from that friendship that were glossed over during the “good times” that remain unresolved. The energy from these are now added to your sense of hurt, loss, betrayal, and/or disappointment lingering from the end of your friendship.

D - SWORN ENEMIES - Every time you see this person, the hair raises on your back and your fight or flight reaction increases your heart rate. Something has happened in the past to fuel this hatred. No matter what this person says or does, it seems to affect you negatively. Your condition approaches paranoia as you believe that the other person has nothing better to do than to make your life miserable.
# A LIST OF SOME FEELING WORDS

This list shows the large range of feelings people are capable of experiencing. The list can be expanded as the MITs work throughout the exercises.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ashamed</th>
<th>Guilty</th>
<th>Remorseful</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angry</td>
<td>Grief-stricken</td>
<td>Regretful</td>
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<td>Greedy</td>
<td>Righteous</td>
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<td>Superior</td>
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<td>Jealous</td>
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<td>Mellow</td>
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1. Mediators welcome disputants, ask their names & introduce themselves.  
2. Ask disputants if they want to try mediation to settle their dispute.  
3. If yes...READ OUT LOUD each rule below after you write their names according to where they are sitting across from you.

   | Print the name of disputant X ________________________________ | Print the name of disputant Y ________________________________ |

   4. Both disputants must agree (by saying, “yes”) to each of the following rules of the mediation which mediators check off as they read them to the disputants.

      ____ No name calling or threats  ____ No interrupting others  ____ Keep this mediation discussion confidential,  ____ Always tell the whole truth  ____ You must work hard to solve the problem,  ____ Listen carefully to each other’s story.  ____ Cell phones are off?  ____ If information about things that can seriously hurt people (civil rights violations, drugs, weapons, violence, etc.) is discussed, mediators must report this to supervisors immediately.

   5. Mediators decide who will speak first (X or Y) and take brief notes in the space below as each disputant speaks. Use your active listening skills as needed.

   Disputant X’s concise story information notes by mediator

   Disputant Y’s concise story information notes by mediator

   Initial statements, non verbal language, responses to other’s story, hidden agendas, etc.

   Draw out each story with open questions, active listening. Reflect back what is said by the disputants with, “I hear you saying...” or, Are you saying...? Ask, “How did that make you feel?” Any hidden agendas? Record information equally below.

   “Help me to better understand...”, “How did that make you feel.” “How do you feel about what s/he said?” “Let me see if I heard you” and then summarize their story.

   9. Agenda: We need to use our FOCUS FUNNEL now. What problems, items, money, possessions, behaviors REALLY need to be discussed? Read your Possible agenda items notes (below, right & left) list and check with disputants for their accuracy. Then ask, “Anything else?” As disputant’s agree with your list, a) first, convert each possibility to about 5 words or less, and finally, b) give each of the 5, or so, word agreed upon agenda possibility a one or two word title. A material issue would be an object’s name (e.g. iPod) while a relationship issue would be about their relationship (e.g. relation-
10. Discuss each item. Allow disputant who told his/her "story" second, to pick the first item to discuss. 

11. Scratch Pad for mediators to collect disputant thoughts for solutions to their issues. 

12. ROUGH solution points agreed upon by disputants. Get ready to write WHO does (or stops doing) WHAT with WHEN (and maybe HOW and/or WHERE) sentences.

13. Complete your mediation with a WIN-WIN type agreement written out below. Each disputant appears to be treated equally in a balanced agreement. Use who, what, when wording for each point–each side. It must have shared responsibility, be possible to honor, solve the problem(s), & be a fair and lasting solution.

CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENT

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<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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14. Closure: After they sign above, thank the disputants for working hard to settle their dispute. Warn them that others may try to interfere with their agreement. Invite the disputants to use mediation again before any future disputes with anybody get too serious. 

15. Ask the office to make two (2) copies of this side only and give a copy to each disputant.

Mediator(s) ____ & ____ Date ______

Mediators are reminded that all information shared and all agreements reached are of a confidential nature. Mediators are also bound by the confidentiality rules of mediation. Exceptions may only involve office personnel.

Possible consequences if this CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENT is not honored by disputants:

____ Follow up Mediation ____ Parent/guardian contact ____ Office disciplinary action ____ Law enforcement ____ Other ___________________

Program coordinator use only - Safe Schools Data

Nature of dispute Location Grade(s) ______

Follow-up notes:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disputant X’s story Name</th>
<th>Disputant Y’s story Name</th>
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(Possible agenda items notes)

AGENDA

(Possible agenda items notes)

Confidential Agreement

X’s Signature ______________________ Date ______

Mediator(s) ______________________ & ______________________ Date ______

Y’s Signature ______________________ Date ______