

Introduction

Welcome to the Tightrope Risk Management Program and this companion course on **Sexual Misconduct**. The peer-to-peer session outlined here is meant to be completed after finishing the Tightrope online module. Using the knowledge gained from the online module, complete this session with your new member class to start a conversation about what healthy relationships look like.

Session Overview

Understanding the changing social dynamics of the #MeToo era begins with the foundations of healthy relationships. When respect, empathy, and consent are present, healthy relationships can flourish, creating open and welcoming spaces that fraternities can be proud of. This session will prompt your members to discuss and debate what they fundamentally believe about healthy relationships. Ultimately, your chapter should set its own boundaries and expectations for behavior in friendships and romantic relationships, alike.

Session Outline

Total Duration: 60 min.

- I. Review the online module (15 min.)
- II. We Believe Activity (40 min.)
- III. Closing (5 min.)

Goals of the Session

- To discuss the characteristics of healthy relationships
- To determine what we believe, as a group, in regards to friendships, brotherhood, and intimate relationships

Materials Needed

- This companion guide
- Scrap paper or notecards
- Paper/plastic bag or a bowl
- Signs for the four corners of the room **See the Resources section at the end of this document.*
- Accompanying slides *(Optional)*

Room Setup

- Use a large, open room with access to four corners or sides of the room. Post the Agree/Disagree signs to the corners or sides of the room. Members will be moving across the room to the side that matches their beliefs.

Detailed Breakdown & Instructions

Read through the instructions and session details at least a day in advance of your session. This will give you time to obtain materials, rearrange rooms, if needed, and complete any additional preparation.

<p>Duration: 15 min.</p> <p>Introduction & Review of Online Module</p> <p><i>[With everyone in a large group, introduce what you'll be discussing today. Use the text below as an example.]</i></p> <p>Today we're going to talk about what we think is healthy and acceptable in relationships. We'll review the online module, first, and then we'll do an activity where we get to debate what we think is okay in different types of relationships.</p> <p><i>[After you've introduced the session, lead a quick activity to review the online module.]</i></p> <p>Step 1: <i>Pass out scrap paper or notecards to each person, and tell them that they'll be using these to help review the online module. You'll ask them a couple of questions, and they should answer each question on a different piece of paper.</i></p> <p>Step 2: <i>Ask them to answer the following question on a piece of scrap paper, and then place it in the bag or bowl.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What was one thing you learned from the module that you didn't know before?</i> <p><i>When everyone has submitted their answer, draw anonymously from the bag or bowl and read some of the answers in front of the group. (You could also allow members to take turns drawing slips of paper.)</i></p> <p><i>After you've read a few answers, empty the bowl, and ask the second question. Repeat the process.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is a point, suggestion, or advice from the module that resonated with you?</i> <p><i>After you've read a few answers, empty the bowl again, and ask the third question. Repeat the process.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How many relationships (could be friendships, relationships with family, or romantic relationships) have you had that you would describe as happy and healthy?</i> <p><i>Read a few answers anonymously from the bowl. Then, move on to the next activity.]</i></p>
<p>Duration: 45 min.</p> <p>We Believe Activity</p> <p><i>[Before starting the activity, clear the room of large furniture and other obstructions, and designate four corners of the room with the labels at the end of this guide. It's helpful to tape signs to the wall so everyone can clearly see them.]</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AGREE 2. STRONGLY AGREE 3. DISAGREE 4. STRONGLY DISAGREE

If you're using the accompanying slides, set them up so everyone can see them. You'll flip through these slides each time you switch statements so that everyone can read the statement.]

[Tell your members that you're going to read 10 statements out loud. Tell them that the statements connect to the following topics:

- Relationships with Family
- Relationships with Brothers
- Relationships with Intimate Partners

Each statement will ask you to think about your beliefs toward the following values:

Empathy | Gratitude | Sacrifice | Loyalty | Management of Emotions | Patience
Conflict Resolution | Respect for Persons | Consent

When they understand the topics and the values they should think about, explain the activity. Use the following script as an example.]

I'll read the statements one at a time. When I'm done reading a statement, walk to the side of the room with the sign that matches what you believe about the statement. (Do you agree with the statement, strongly agree with it, disagree with it, or strongly disagree with it?) When everyone has moved, each side will have time to explain and defend their choice.

[Once each member has moved, ask the corner with the most people to explain why they made that choice. Then, ask the other corners why they think differently. (Members may feel strongly one way or the other, and it's okay if they want to debate their beliefs.) Spend about 5 minutes discussing and debating each statement.

When you've debated for a few minutes, ask your members to think about what your group as a whole should believe. This may be different from the opinions of individual members. Think about your values, ritual, and what is expected of a good member. Try to come to a consensus about what type of behavior should be expected of your organization.

After you've completed discussion about individual beliefs AND discussion about what the larger group should believe, move on to the next statement. If you're using the accompanying slides, flip the slide to the next statement. The statements are listed below.]

Relationships with Family (Empathy | Gratitude | Sacrifice)

1. We believe it's okay to hurt our family's feelings because they'll love us anyway.
2. We believe it's important to tell our family members we are grateful for them.
3. We believe that sacrificing for family is an important part of being in a family.

Relationships with Brothers (Loyalty | Management of Emotions | Patience)

1. We believe it's okay to turn your back on a brother if he is disloyal to you first.
2. We believe it's okay to take your anger out on a brother because your oaths will keep you connected.

3. We believe it's okay to be impatient with your brothers because it will make them better in the end.

Relationships with Intimate Partners (Conflict Resolution | Respect for Persons | Consent)

1. We believe it's okay to ignore someone's feelings in a relationship because it's probably not your fault, anyway.
2. We believe it's okay to treat someone like a side-piece if it's just a hook-up.
3. We believe it's okay to try to go as far as you can in bed if they seem into it.
4. We believe it's okay to hook up when you're both really drunk because you're more relaxed that way.

[If no one in your chapter speaks to the concept of consent, it may be necessary for you to point to your organization's or school's risk management policy. Consent laws differ from state to state, so it's very risky to proceed without spoken confirmation of consent or if one or both of you have been drinking.]

Duration: 5 min.

Closing

[After all the statements have been discussed, briefly summarize the session and how you think it went. Use the text below as an example of what to say.]

Thanks for participating, everyone. This topic can be awkward to talk about sometimes, but it's important for us to be clear about our expectations as a class and what standards we want to hold ourselves to.

[Thank your members for their participation, and end the session.]

Session Resources

We Believe Activity Signs

Tightrope Risk Management Program

Sexual Misconduct

1. Print each of the following wall signs on a separate page.
2. Tape or hang the signs in four separate areas of the room to mark where members should stand during the activity.
3. Hang them higher than eye-level so the signs can still be seen when people are standing in front of them.

AGREE

STRONGLY AGREE

DISAGREE

STRONGLY

DISAGREE