

Testing Your Boundaries Challenges to Your Neutrality and Authority

How would you respond to the following statements?

Faculty Member: “I see Mark doing the same thing all the time. Are you having this conversation with him, too?”

You:

Business Manager: “There are stories I could tell about this unit.”

You:

Faculty Member: “You know, if we can’t work this out, I may be forced to go public.”

You:

Staff Member: “I have a cousin who is an attorney.”

You:

Senior Technician: “There’s no telling what I could do if I go off my medications.”

You:

Senior Faculty Member: “This is incredible; who would have guessed that the power would go to your head like this? Does the Dean [President] know you’re doing this to me?”

You:

Faculty Member: “Believe me, you don’t want to see what I’m like when I’m angry.”

You:

Faculty Member: “Don’t I have the right to do as I please in my free time? Last I heard, this was a free country.”

You:

Faculty Member After a Department Meeting About Equalizing Teaching Loads: “You’re all ganging up on me because you know how fragile I am right now. I just can’t take much more of this kind of treatment.”

You:

Graduate Student Complainant: “What do you think I should do in this situation?”

You:

Faculty Member After Annual Evaluation: “I thought you were my friend. Just where do your loyalties lie, anyway?”

You: