Negotiating Boundaries

Created by: Catherine Salole - Director, Centre for Student Community & Leadership Development



redefine THE POSSIBLE.

Presented by: Nader Allam and Ayesha Khan Basic Peer Leadership Training Bethune College Student Ombuds Services Sunday, May 14th, 2017



- How your experiences will benefit incoming students
- How your experiences may inhibit incoming students
- Communication skills as a strategy to avoid this
- The "Do's and Don'ts" of leadership



- Boundaries are important rules and guidelines that should be set out in order to maintain a **positive** and **healthy** environment.
- If you do not set strong boundaries, many of the benefits of the student-peer leader relationship are LOST!



Given the scenario, what are some possible **BOUNDARIES** that should be established with students?



- Contact information (emails, phone numbers)
- Meeting locations (e.g. office hours)
- Dating?
- Homework
- Money



➤What do you do if you know someone beforehand?

Preferential treatment and consistency



- Discuss how a PASS Leader must coordinate their FB group
- ➤How can you be more professional in your interactions on social media platforms?



- If using a forum for a PL role, it is the responsibility of the PL to monitor the activity of the forum and ensure that there are no breaches of academic honesty.
- > Check your privacy settings and ensure that they are updated.
- Ensure that your personal posts are maintained separately to ensure that there is no conflict of interest & professionalism is maintained.
- "Data shows that 93% of hiring managers review a candidate's social profile before making a hiring decision." (Davidson, 2014)

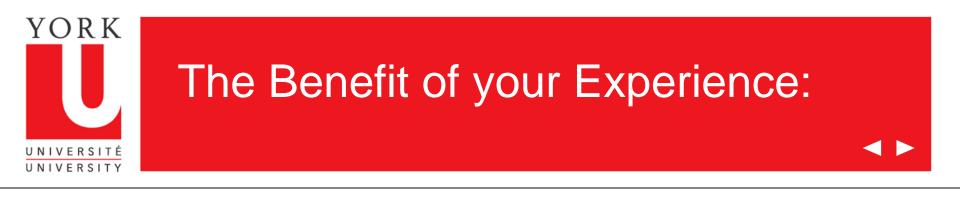


Things to keep in mind

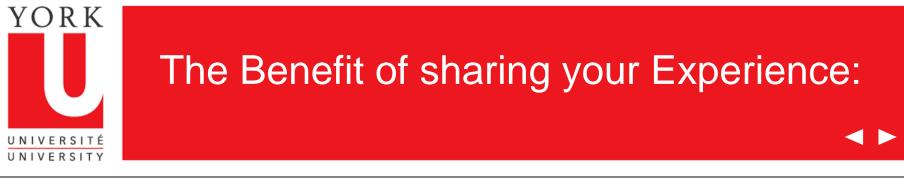
- > Mention romantic relationships to your coordinator
- ➤ Power imbalances
- Importance of professionalism
 - -Effective communication
 - -Representatives of an organization
- Equitable treatment
- \succ We are here to serve our peers!



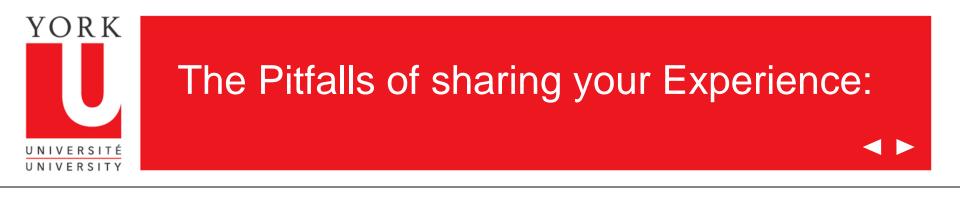
- The successes and challenges you had as a York student
- The positive and negative experiences you had as a York student
- Someone who has had a great impact on you as a student



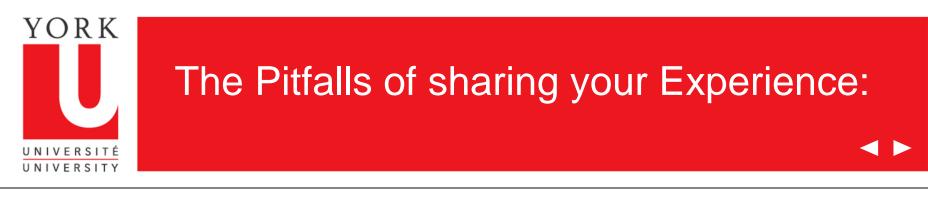
How might your experiences benefit an incoming student?



- Navigating the system
- How and where to get help
- How to get good grades
- How to make meaningful connections
- How to talk to faculty
- How to make the most of classes
- How to get what you need from your readings
- Knowing the language and culture of university



What are the drawbacks to imparting our own experience on others?



- What worked for me may not work for others
- Academic rules change from year to year
- Can come across as patronizing
- Not about us! The focus should be the student
- We make assumptions and have biases
- We pass along our baggage and close off what might be valuable avenues for our students



What do you think are the **Do's** and **Don'ts** of a Peer Leader?



Ethics of Leadership

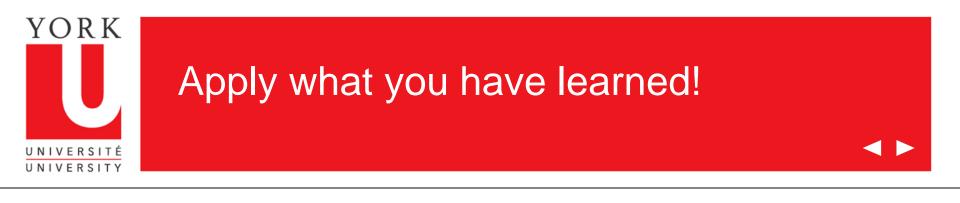


- An advisor
- Pro-student
- Sensitive to uniqueness of each student
- •Ready to share your experiences
- An empowerer

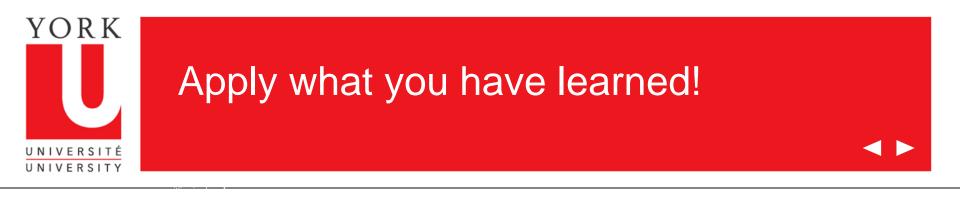
- DO NOT BE:
- A buddy
- Condescending
- Anti-York
- Inconsistent in what you give your students
- Imposing your solutions
- A problem solver



Please return to the topics you were given, possibly identifying some new boundaries that you have learned today!



- 1) You and a friend are currently taking 1 class together (Biology) for which you are an assigned Peer Leader. They approach you asking for notes, old tests and homework for another course (Physics) they know you had already taken while you are sitting in class (Biology).
- 2) A classmate approaches you concerning the assigned homework in their class, stating that it is much too simple for them, and hence asking you, as a trusted Peer Leader, to do it for them offering you a choice of either a pay or a generous thanking letter to be sent to your supervisors. They say that because you work with SOS you have to help them, after all you must have better connections with the professor.
- 3) You have fallen head over heels in love with one student, and you find out that they will be in the class for which you are an assigned Peer Leader...



- 4) A student explains to you that they do not have an account on any social media platform (and they are not interested in having one), nor an email address. They ask if they may exchange phone numbers with you instead and whether or not they may meet you in private whenever and wherever you choose, whenever they require assistance.
- 5) After a study session or PASS session or PT session or PM session, the student feels very grateful towards you, the Peer Leader, and would like to thank you in some way with gifts (objects, food or money).
- 6) A concerned student is sending numerous messages on the class' Facebook group, complaining about the lack of effectiveness of study sessions and the insufficient resources provided by the course director, explicitly stating that they are not performing well due to your "poor effort" as a Peer Leader".



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