

A short script for one ordinary disagreement

FREE DISCUSSION HANDOUT • Robert W. Linn, PM • Brotherhood of Purpose. Use this on its own to prepare an ordinary, willing talk. No purchase is needed.

Check before you invite

In immediate danger, move to safety if you can and contact local emergency help. Threats, serious misconduct, or fear of punishment need a suitable reporting or independent route. Do not require a joint talk with the person complained about.

This handout does not mediate, investigate, or decide a formal case. If the route is unknown, pause and ask a suitable contact outside the concern how to find it.

Offer a choice

“Would you be willing to discuss [one issue] for thirty minutes? [Names] would attend. You may decline or ask for another route.”

Check time, place, access needs, and leader. No surprise guests.

If everyone freely accepts

“I will help us take turns, not decide for the lodge. Each may speak, pass, or stop. We may end without agreement.

I propose a short next-step note, not a recording. [People] would see it under [actual rules]. Does this plan work for each of you?”

Fill the brackets with checked facts. Do not invent privacy promises or decision authority. If anyone is unsure or cannot choose freely, pause. Required processes have their own route.

Start with: “How would you describe the issue?” Listen before offering solutions. The next page shows how to sort the answers.

Hear the views and choose the right ending

Take one turn each

Agree short turns with a right to pass. Let each person finish. Sum up: “Have I understood?” Accept corrections.

Hearing a view does not prove it or mean equal blame.

Made-up supper issue

Fact: Two notices give different times.

Concern: One man needs travel time; another needs time for cleanup.

Proposal: Check room hours before suggesting a change.

Unknown: Who may approve that change?

Which ending fits the actual result?

Agreed step

Name who accepted the task and its date. Missing formal approval means proposed, not approved.

Missing fact

Name what needs checking, a willing checker, and an update date. “Still unknown” is an honest update.

No agreement

State what is still disputed. Stop this talk. Use the proper decision or reporting route without forcing a deal.

If attacks or interruptions continue, pause or end. For threats or serious claims, stop this method. Do not block an exit or follow someone to continue arguing.

An honest next step filled in

This made-up case ends with a fact to check. Eli and Tom still disagree about the supper time.

Issue/date: Supper time, October 8, 2026.

Agreed/open: Jo checks room hours. No time change agreed.

Task: Jo asks the organizer October 8; sends an update October 9, even if unknown.

Approval: The lodge's decision route still needs checking. No change approved.

Access/contact: Eli, Tom, Jo only; October 9 update only.

Records: Jo holds this note for now. Storage and deletion rules are unknown.

Next check: Jo asks the record contact October 9. Preserve required and complaint records.

Read it back

Read it back. Silence is not yes. Mark disputed points. Keep private drafts apart from shared notes.

If someone stops

"We will stop this voluntary talk. Do you still want the update we discussed?" Accept no.

Do not ask for a handshake, apology, or another talk. Required notices use their own route.

Try it safely

Alone: draft a note. In pairs: take turns and practice no agreement. In a class: use only this made-up case and allow passing. Do not act out threats or seek private stories.

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Record our actual next step

Ordinary willing discussion only. Agree who sees this note before writing.

Keep answers short. Before printing, check every word is visible. Use a labeled extra sheet for more.

One issue and date

What is agreed? What is disputed or unknown?

Next task, willing person, and due or update date; or no agreed step

Who or what process must approve a proposed change?

Who may see this note? What further contact is wanted?

Where kept? Required records and spare-copy deletion rules to check?

Share only as agreed and required. Preserve required and complaint records. See page 3 for sharing terms.