

GROUP HANDOUT 14.3B

Situations for Expressing “No”

GENERAL COMMUNITY

1. Your colleague who sits at the next desk says to you, “I’m planning on calling in sick tomorrow. If the supervisor asks about me, will you tell her that I was coughing and sneezing and had a headache today?”

2. Your teenager says to you, “Everyone I know has an iPhone except me. If you could only see how much I’m missing out on life, you’d be getting me one.”

3. Your longtime next-door neighbor is running for mayor. You do not agree with her political views. She says to you, “We’re coming to the home stretch, but it’s a close race, and I need all the help I can get. I know you’ve been laid off so I wonder if I can ask you a big favor. Would you be willing to leaflet our neighborhood tomorrow? It’ll take no more than an hour.”

4. Your in-laws are on the phone saying, “We just heard about this great airline deal: terrific prices, but you have to stay at least a month at your destination. Since we haven’t seen you and the kids for so long, we thought this would be a wonderful opportunity to spend some time together rather than another one of those hurried hello-and-goodbye visits. We’d like to go ahead with it, if it’s okay with you.”

5. Your supervisor says, “In the future, I’d like for you to just send out a standard form letter to candidates we reject rather than calling them individually and spending time on people whom this firm will never see again.”

6. Your partner says “Of course it’s not a scam. I went to school with a guy who’s doing this and he’s already made a mint. If we pull out our savings and do this tomorrow, we’ll be twice as rich in three months. Come on, it’s the chance of a lifetime!”