

Reality Cards

Training & Team Building that flips you out of the frying pan and gently places you into the fire!

Purpose – A method that takes you from the theory of the training manual to the reality of what actually happens at camp.

Goals - Keep training fresh, allow for real camp scenarios to be heard and experienced, provide for teamwork to solve many of the issues, compel trainees to face difficult situations, much like they will at camp, and provide opportunities for discussions within the group.

End Result – For Trainees to come away from training thinking that it was more useful, worth their time, and feel more prepared for camp.

NOTE: As a leadership team, you should also use this as a time to identify people and their skill sets. Here are some possible take-a-ways for the leadership team.

When someone gives a great answer - That may identify someone you may be able to look to for help in handling difficult situations.

When someone doesn't have a clue how to answer - This is perfectly alright. Many inexperienced people won't be sure what to say. That's the point of this training. If you're not sure, call on others for help.

When someone gives a bad or inappropriate answer - That may identify someone who is simply new to camp or new to these kinds of kids. It may identify someone who simply needs more training or experience. It may indicate someone who you need to keep a closer eye on during camp.

Basic Model:

1. Camp Director, or Trainer, randomly picks trainees from the classroom, both Counselors and Staff, then picks a **Reality Card** and reads the "**Event**" line that occurred at camp and asks the randomly chosen person, "How would you respond to this event?"
2. If the person knows what to do with that event, they respond out loud so everyone can hear.
3. If they are not sure what to do, or simply have no clue what to do, they should call on members of the team assembled around them and ask for help. They may want to ask a Dean for help, or maybe the Nurse or a fellow Counselor. It's a life-line to phone a friend. A small group of people who feel comfortable will usually offer suggestions.

4. The individual who was originally asked the question now declares how they will respond.
5. Ask the rest of the group for feedback on how it was handled. This could lead to lengthy discussions depending on the event and the responses.
6. Finally, read the "**Resolved**" line on the card and find out how the camp actually resolved the event. This may again, lead to lengthy discussions depending on how your group believes the original camp handled the event.
7. The cards are short and many details are left out, so don't judge the original camp on how they handled the situation.
8. As the Director or Trainer, RESIST the temptation to answer these events on your own. The point is to hear their responses, not yours. You can always add your comments after you have heard their comments.

Variations –

1. It can be a separate Team Building exercise with your entire group. You can split your team into smaller groups of 25 – 50. It would be best to split all the staff members equally between the groups.
2. This can also be an exercise where you use it throughout the training agenda. If you are training on all 8 sections of the 101 Manual, you could randomly call 4 people after each section and read a card to each one. Then you are sprinkling this event throughout the training and integrating it into the agenda all day long.
3. Optional Team Building Group Event (see attached sheet). You can break up into small groups of 5 and have each group come up with their own Reality Card based on past experiences. Then share their "Event" with another team and have the other team come up with a good "Resolution".

Note: Make sure you send your samples to the National office so we can add them to our list for other camps to use for training.

What's needed – Time and the Reality Cards.

-Sample Cards-

REALITY CARDS

Event - On the final day of camp, all the campers and Counselors were busy packing their bags. A Counselor stepped out of view for a moment, and when she came back, the camper had removed all of the Counselor's clothes from her suitcase, and the camper was now sitting **in** the suitcase. The camper looked up at the Counselor and said, "Can you take me home with you? See, I don't take up much room." How do you respond?

Resolved - (We assume it went something like this): "I have to go back to my home, and you have to go back to your home. I am so thankful that we have had this week together. It has been a thrill for me to be with you. We have made some great memories, and we have learned so much about life and friends and about God. You're going to have your photo album to remember this incredible week, and the songs that we sang to remind you of this special time. I believe that God will continue to protect you and bring wonderful people into your life that will continue to help you through all of life. Would you like to pray about it?"

RFKC REALITY CARDS

Event - At chapel time they talked about forgiveness. No matter how bad something is or how bad someone was, God can forgive us. At 30/30 time, a camper reveals that he witnessed his Father murder his Mother. Now his Mother is dead and his Father is in prison for life, so he will always be in Foster care. He looks at you and says, "My Father is a murderer, so he can never be forgiven because you can't forgive murderers right?" How would you respond?

Resolved – The Counselor sat down with the camper and explained what the Bible says about forgiveness, that all sins can be forgiven by God. He explained that several people in the Bible caused other people's deaths: Moses killing the Egyptian, and King David ordering the death of Uriah the Hittite. They were forgiven by God and still used by God in many powerful ways. The camper came to realize that maybe his Father could be forgiven, and that maybe he could even forgive his Father for what he had done.

Optional Team Building Group Event

1. Separate the trainees into groups of 5 and give them each a copy of this sheet.
2. As a group, they are to come up with their own Reality Card.
3. Write down an actual event that occurred at camp and how it was resolved.
4. Share the event with another group and ask them how they would have resolved the event.
5. Share how it was actually resolved and have a discussion.

EVENT -

RESOLVED -