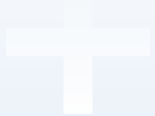


Personality Clashes:

What to Do When You Are Struggling to Connect

Recurring Characters



"The Bigot"

"The Politician"

"The Egotist"

"The Debbie Downer"

"The Offensive Offense"



1. **The Bigot:** Someone who regularly expresses sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise problematic views.
2. **The Politician:** Someone who only wants to talk about politics or world events, which can be uncomfortable if you have different political views; your visits end up feeling like more of a debate than a conversation.
3. **The Egotist:** Someone who dominates the conversation and loves to hear themselves talk. Your visits feel more like them bragging than an actual conversation.
4. **The Debbie Downer:** Someone who is consistently negative, only focuses on the negative, or dismisses everything you say.
5. **The Offensive Offense:** When learning about someone's offense makes it hard to accept or connect with them.

Maintaining Boundaries Amid Disagreement

1. PVS Boundaries

- Visit once a month
- Only communicate in the visiting room - no phone or email.
- Be intentional about what personal information you share

2. Reaffirm your boundaries clearly – including potential consequences.



Small Group Discussion

Discussion questions to consider:

How did it make you feel?

How did you handle it?

Do you wish you handled it differently?

What are some strategies that help/ed you cope with these visits?

Prompt:

Have you ever struggled to connect with a prisoner?

Have you ever visited someone you did not like or who triggered you?

Did they fall into one of the "recurring characters" archetypes?

What Next?

1. **Let us know!** You do not need to do this alone. Let the organization support you and help guide you.
2. **Discuss options:** talk to your LC & staff and we can brainstorm.
 - Potential courses of action:
 - stick it out
 - hand them over to another visitor
 - have them removed from PVS (in extreme situations.)