Scenario:

P: First visit with an “exploder,” someone who won’t quit talking, and is very demanding of modes of support that the visitor will not likely be able to satisfy.

V: PVS visitor wants to convey certain parameters and explanations about PVS visiting.

P: Hi. So you’re my PVS visitor. Boy, am I glad to see you. I don’t know why I got transferred out here. I’m so far from home now, my family won’t be able to come visit. But I’m hoping that you will be able to help me. Listen, I’m preparing a motion to file with the court to reconsider my sentencing. The judge was clearly prejudiced against me and went completely overboard with my sentence and violated my plea agreement. The prosecutor alleged I had all these guns in my possession when it was clearly not true. They weren’t mine, I kept saying. But the judge used that phony charge to enhance my sentence far more than my attorney said I was likely to get. I took responsibility for the handgun that I had, but to sentence me for all those other weapons was a clear violation of my constitutional rights. I’m hoping you can write a letter to the court in support of my motion.

V: Whoa. Hold on. Let’s get acquainted first. You’re Charlie, right? I’m Mary, and I’ve been assigned to be your PVS Visitor. You’ve not had a PVS visit before, is that right?

P: No. You are my first PVS visitor. My family came to see me every week when I was at the MDC while my trial was going on. But now the BOP has sent me out here in the boonies and my family is a thousand miles away. Their policy says we’re supposed to be within five hundred miles of our home. Clearly that’s a violation in my case. No way my family is going to be able to come visit me here. But I heard about PVS while I was at the MDC. So I know all about PVS. That is why I requested a visit. Finally I’m getting a visit. Support, right? That’s your middle name. That’s what I need. So do you think you can write a letter to my judge? Can you?

V: Sorry, Charlie, I can’t do that. I’m not allowed to be an advocate in your case. All I can do is visit you here and provide you moral support by listening and talking with you. Let me explain the PVS program. I will come once a month….

P: (interrupting) What part of this didn’t you understand? Clearly the judge violated my rights by adding five extra years onto my sentence and now I’m out here in the middle of nowhere where my family can’t help me. I need you to write me a letter to get my sentence reduced so that I can get home to my wife and kid. They need me. I don’t know how they’ll survive without me.

V: I hear you, Charlie, and my heart goes out to you and your family. But all I can do is visit with you. I would like to hear about your family. Would you like to tell me more about them?

P: My son is four years old. It’s pathetic. When he gets on the phone, he asks me, “Daddy, When are you coming home? Why can’t we see you now?” It breaks my heart. You’ve got to help me fix this situation. What else can I tell you to convince you to support me? Do you want me to tell you more about my case? The whole case was a set up. A sting operation by dirty cops who planted weapons and then accused me of trafficking in guns...

V: (jumping in to get a word in) You can tell me about your case, if you like. As a PVS visitor, I have no agenda in visiting and am happy to talk about whatever you want to talk about. Usually we don’t ask about your charge, but if you want to discuss it, I’m happy to listen. Just understand, I am not a lawyer and cannot give you any legal advice. Also, you should be aware that what we say is confidential between you and me. I do not discuss anything with the staff here. But our conversations could be monitored, so you might want to take that into consideration.

P: Yeah, the whole system is rigged against me. Phony charge, broken plea deal, now I’m sent out here and been waiting for a visit to get some support. I need support. I thought you were coming to help me. Let me explain this again, maybe you’ll understand what I’m saying this time. Write down this case number, 21CR56798. You can look it up on Lexus Nexus and read how the court totally screwed me. And my attorney, too. The whole thing was so unfair. I need you to help me. So let me start from the beginning. I was working this job using my truck to haul rubbish from a demolition site. While I was waiting in line to get another load, this guy came up to me and asked if I would like to make a quick extra hundred hauling away something of his…..

(fade out into endless monologue…)