

Exercise #1

In Their Defense: Scenarios

Scenario A:

You have created and prepared a program called “Hemp Jewelry.” In this program teens use hemp twine and beads to create woven bracelets and chokers, popular fashion items for teens today.

Your library board has received a phone call from a local police officer who is upset that you are offering this program because hemp is associated with marijuana plants. The city council wants you to stop the program.

Scenario B:

You have just completed a very successful summer program for your teens. Attendance was up at programs, and participation in the reading program also increased over last year. It took a large portion of your annual budget allocation; however, and there isn't much money left.

You ask your administrators for more money to fund some fall programs to keep the momentum going. They want to know why you couldn't just spend less in the summer, so you would have some left for other programming?

Scenario C:

You want to have an after-hours film night in the library. You anticipate concerns from colleagues and management over security, safety, and clean-up issues. What do you think the specific concerns might be, and how can you preempt them?

Scenario D:

Your teen council is planning a video gaming tournament. The library board has asked what this program has to do with reading and books, and why the library should offer these kinds of programs.

Scenario E:

Your teens have asked for a program series that addresses various hot issues for teens, so you have planned several programs. One program in the series discusses gay and lesbian teens. You have received phone calls from local churches that don't want the library to offer this kind of program. They feel this discussion would be destructive, and they want the library to offer an alternative program to address abstinence and "normal" relationships. Your administration has asked you to write a response to these churches. What points would you include in your response?

Scenario F:

You are a librarian in a system where there has always been strong children's programming but nothing for young adults. You are interested in establishing regular programs for teens. How would you begin to plan an argument for support of this kind of programming, what tools would you use to gather information for your argument, and what would you cover in your proposal?

Scenario G:

You are offering a book club for teens in grades 7-12. Together you plan to read *Looking for Alaska*, the Printz Award Winner. There are instances of drinking, smoking, sex, and suicide in the story. A colleague, with a teen daughter that wants to participate in the club, comes to you with concerns that the book is too racy for inclusion in the book club, and asks for you to use another title.

Scenario H:

You are offering a teen program about domestic and dating violence. A portion of this program will discuss teen sexuality and sexual abuse. A patron inquires why the library offers this kind of information to children. He states that only parents should be talking to kids about this and that it is a filthy topic for the library to address.