

Role Play 1

Character 1: Facilitator

Character 2: Sarah

Background: Sarah, a 32-year-old woman, has recently been released after serving three years for a non-violent drug-related offense. She's determined to rebuild her life and regain custody of her two children, who were placed in foster care during her incarceration. Sarah is eager to find stable employment and reconnect with her children, but she's anxious about judgment and societal stigma.

Behavior in the Group: During discussions about employment opportunities and parenting after reentry, Sarah often listens intently but hesitates to share her thoughts. She occasionally fidgets or avoids eye contact when the topic of her past comes up.

Character 3: Jamal

Background: Jamal, 28, spent five years in prison for burglary and has been out for a year. Struggling to adapt to life outside, he feels isolated from his family and friends. Jamal is committed to staying on the right path, but he's uncertain about navigating the challenges of reentry. He's looking for support and guidance to build a better future.

Behavior in the Group: Jamal takes on the role of the "listener" in the group. He often offers words of encouragement and empathy to others, drawing from his own experiences. However, he sometimes avoids sharing his own struggles in-depth, fearing that he might burden the group with his challenges.

Character 4: Maria

Background: Maria, 40, is a transgender woman who served eight years for assault. She's been out for six months and is excited to make a fresh start. However, she faces discrimination while seeking housing and employment due to her gender identity. Maria also battles anxiety and low self-esteem from her past and current struggles. She's seeking a supportive community where she can truly belong.

Behavior in the Group: Maria tends to be a peacemaker in the group. She actively listens to others and often steps in to mediate when tensions arise. However, she hesitates to share her own vulnerability, struggling with a fear of being judged for her past actions and gender identity.

Group Situation:

During a discussion about overcoming challenges, Sarah expresses her fear of being judged due to her past. Jamal chimes in, sharing his own struggles but unintentionally brushes off Sarah's concerns. Maria, sensing the tension, hesitates to share her experiences. The facilitator needs to intervene to ensure a safe and inclusive environment adapting to group needs.

Role Play 2

Character 1: Facilitator

Character 2: Michael

Background: Michael, 35, was recently released after serving a five-year sentence for a white-collar crime. Eager to rebuild his life, he's focused on finding stable employment and reconnecting with his family. However, he often struggles with guilt and shame for his past actions.

Behavior in the group: Michael tends to get defensive when discussing his conviction, fearing judgment from others. He may occasionally interrupt or become withdrawn during conversations that touch on legal matters.

Character 3: Aisha

Background: Aisha, 29, spent two years in prison for her involvement in a protest that turned violent. She's passionate about activism and is determined to raise awareness about issues within the criminal justice system. However, she sometimes struggles with anger management and impatience.

Behavior in the group: Aisha can become very passionate and emotionally charged when discussing the prison system. She might clash with others who have differing opinions or experiences, leading to potential conflicts within the group.

Character 4: Carlos

Background: Carlos, 42, was incarcerated for a decade due to a gang-related offense. He's been out for a year and is committed to leaving his past behind. He's focused on finding legitimate work and being present for his children. However, he grapples with anxiety in social situations and is worried about being judged for his criminal history.

Behavior in the group: Carlos tends to be reserved during discussions, and his anxiety sometimes prevents him from fully engaging. He might hesitate to share his experiences, fearing potential rejection or judgment from others.

Group Situation: During a discussion about reentry challenges, tensions rise when Aisha becomes emotional while sharing her experience of the protest that led to her incarceration. Michael interrupts, suggesting that her actions were irresponsible. Aisha becomes defensive, and the atmosphere becomes tense. The facilitator needs to intervene to address the unique needs of the participants and address the tension.

Role Play 3

Character 1: Facilitator

Character 2: Alex

Background: Alex, 38, has just been released after serving seven years in prison for armed robbery. Determined to make a fresh start, Alex is focusing on rebuilding relationships with family and finding employment. However, deep feelings of guilt and shame from the past still haunt Alex.

Behavior in the Group: Alex often takes the role of the peacemaker, striving to create a positive and harmonious atmosphere within the group. Alex is empathetic and attentive to others' stories, but occasionally withdraws from discussions that remind them of their criminal history.

Character 3: Maya

Background: Maya, 45, has spent a decade in prison for a white-collar crime. With her sentence behind her, Maya is determined to reconnect with her grown children and make amends. However, she struggles with feelings of isolation and inadequacy due to her strained family relationships.

Behavior in the Group: Maya is a natural listener in the group, offering insightful perspectives and advice to others. She's eager to share her wisdom but often downplays her own emotions, fearing judgment. Maya's empathetic nature occasionally leads her to absorb the group's emotions, affecting her well-being.

Character 4: Chris

Background: Chris, 31, recently completed a three-year sentence for drug trafficking. Now focused on staying clean and supporting their younger sibling, Chris faces challenges in finding stable employment due to their criminal record. Anxiety about the future often keeps Chris up.

Behavior in the Group: Chris is the candid truth-teller of the group, often addressing uncomfortable topics head-on. They provide practical advice and insights from personal experiences, but their bluntness can occasionally lead to disagreements with other participants.

Group Behavior Situation:

During a discussion on rebuilding relationships, Alex shares their struggles with guilt and reconnecting with family. Maya and Chris offer advice and empathetic insights, but their emotional discussions trigger intense feelings within Alex.

Role Play 4

Character 1: Facilitator

Character 2: Jordan

Background: Jordan, 27, has recently been released after serving two years for assault. Focused on personal growth, Jordan aims to rebuild relationships with family and friends while pursuing higher education. Overwhelming anxiety about academic challenges and social reintegration often keeps Jordan from sleeping well.

Behavior in the Group: Jordan is often the active questioner in the group, seeking advice and perspectives on managing stress and education. However, the fear of judgment occasionally prevents Jordan from fully opening up about personal struggles.

Character 3: Taylor

Background: Taylor, 35, served a decade-long sentence for manslaughter and has been out for three months. Committed to community service and making amends, Taylor struggles with navigating public perception and self-worth.

Behavior in the Group: Taylor often takes on the role of the storyteller, sharing personal experiences of rehabilitation and growth. However, their stories sometimes overshadow the experiences of others, unintentionally undermining the collective sharing atmosphere.

Character 4: Riley

Background: Riley, 42, has spent five years in prison for embezzlement. With release on the horizon, Riley is excited to reunite with their family and find stability. Yet, the fear of post-release employment obstacles and their criminal record still looms large.

Behavior in the Group: Riley frequently offers practical advice and insights on navigating post-release challenges, particularly around employment. However, they occasionally become frustrated when group members don't seem to fully grasp the complexity of the obstacles they face.

Group Behavior Situation:

During a discussion on post-release obstacles, Taylor's personal stories dominate the conversation, and Riley becomes visibly frustrated with the lack of focus on their concerns. Jordan listens intently, seeking guidance on coping with anxiety related to education and reintegration.