



REFLECTIONS OF SINCERE FRIENDSHIP

FRATERNITY VALUE: SINCERE FRIENDSHIP

SUGGESTED FACILITATOR: DIRECTOR LIFELONG MEMBERSHIP OR
SENIOR CLASS MEMBERS

Shared by Pi Beta Phi's Washington Alpha's Chapter

Goals:

- This seminar should allow for an opportunity to reflect and discuss the importance of Sincere Friendship while recognizing the dedication and service of the chapter's collegiate seniors.

Room set-up/materials needed:

- Chapter members should be broken up into five to 10 groups.
- Optional: Inform senior members of the details of this seminar one to two weeks in advance so they have time to prepare certain memories they may want to share.
- Also, the facilitator could collect pictures depicting Sincere Friendship from seniors to display in a slideshow before or after the seminar.

Getting Started

Talking points are indicated with a callout bullet (☞). Please use these as speaking guidelines but be sure to jazz up the presentation with your own personality. Facilitation instructions are indicated with an arrow (➔) and serve as hints you might find helpful when administering the material. Most importantly, have fun!

Instructions

- ☞ Today we are going to be talking about Pi Beta Phi's value of Sincere Friendship, one of the most important values of our Fraternity. At this time of year, as our seniors are about to graduate, it seems over their four years, they have gained an understanding of what sincere friendship looks like.
- ☞ Pi Phi sisters are some of your nearest and dearest lifelong friends. You share a special bond with your Fraternity sisters that no one else understands. Beyond your chapter, you share that bond with a vast network of collegians and alumnae as well. Cherish the friendships you form in Pi Phi; they are precious, unique and irreplaceable. Speaking of the Fraternity, one of our founders said, "The girls were real friends, interested in each other's families and friends. They took their oaths and Fraternity responsibility most seriously, and if a 'sister' was in need of help, did everything in their power to be of real assistance. They believed thoroughly in the words, which had been repeated to them in the Welcome After the Initiation Ceremony: 'In this chapter, all stand upon a common level. There are no degrees, no ranks, no official privileges. Members are members for life and work hand-in-hand for a common good.'"
- ☞ In "Circle of Friendship," another ceremony that is often conducted on Preference Night, part of the script reads:

"Friendship is a chain of gold
Shaped in God's all-perfect mold;
Each link a smile, a laugh, a tear;
A wink, a hug, a word of cheer.
No matter how far or heavy the load,
Sweet is the journey on friendship's road."

- Let's first start by discussing in your groups what you think Sincere Friendship means. What does it look like? What are attributes of a sincere friend?

➤ Give them five minutes to discuss and then go into the definition of friendship.

- The dictionary defines 'friend' as the following:
Pronunciation: \friend\, Function: *noun*, Etymology: Middle English *frend*, from Old English *freond*; akin to Old High German *fruint* friend, Old English *freon* to love, *freo* free; Date: before 12th century
 - 1 **a:** one attached to another by affection or esteem **b:** acquaintance
 - 2 **a:** one that is not hostile **b:** one that is of the same nation, party or group
 - 3: one that favors or promotes something (as a charity)
 - 4: a favored companion
- How do the answers your group came up with relate to the dictionary's definition or "friend" or Pi Beta Phi's definition of Sincere Friendship?

➤ A few thoughts about sincere friendship:

- Pi Phi's youngest founder, Libbie Brook Gaddis, said, "For while there are deeper and holier relations than that of ... Pi Beta Phi, still nothing purer or lovelier graces the name of friendship."
- On May 14, 1924, Grace Coolidge, a Pi Phi and First Lady of the United States wrote the following quote in a letter to her Pi Phi friends who gave her the diamond arrow badge when the official portrait of her was given to the U.S., "I wear my Robin arrow everyday and love it for all that it expresses. When it comes to my position here, I feel very humble but when I think of my friends, I am proud and haughty. How truly rich I am."
- You will recall that on Preference Night, your chapter may have included the Eight Pearls Ceremony. In this, it explains the eighth pearl symbolizes friendship. This is the last and final pearl, as it resembles one of the most important qualities of being a Pi Phi. Part of this ceremony that is read to the potential new members explains, "Around this chapter room cluster some of the most precious associations of college life. You were chosen to be here tonight because of the individual qualities you possess. Tonight, we invite you to join in our circle of friendship. Remember this pearl as one of the most important. A Pi Phi strives for this virtue." Years later, each of us in this room come together having accepted that invitation and had the opportunity to experience that friendship in different ways.
- At this time, we would like for our senior members to share some of those memories they have made during their time as a Pi Phi that fit the definitions of friend and sincere friendship.

➤ These stories can be funny, embarrassing, emotional, etc. This really should be a time for the graduating seniors to reflect on the sincere friendships creating during college and they impact they made. Suggestion: limit the time each senior is allotted to ensure the seminar is conducted in a reasonable amount of time.

Final Wrap-Up

- Sincere Friendship is one of the core values of our fraternity. It can be everlasting if sincerely taken care of. Therefore, let's all aspire to be active in our friendships and always motivate each other, be honest with each other and listen to each other.
- In a 1923 letter in *The Arrow*, Fannie Whitenack Libbey wrote, "My hair is white, but my heart is still young, though it is 56 years since the day I first wore the golden arrow. I trust that the companionship and friendships formed in your college may prove as sweet and lasting as those of us girls in 1867. A tie that will bind you close together and be an inspiration to each of you to achieve the highest and best in life."

➤ Thank everyone for coming.

Evaluation: Don't forget to help the Fraternity assess this program. The program facilitator, as well as a member of each class, should be asked to visit the Leading with Values website, www.pibetaphi.org/leadingwithvalues, to fill out a quick survey. Remember, the name of this seminar is Reflections of Sincere Friendship.

The chapter's Vice President Member Experience should remember to record the presentation of this program in the chapter's monthly region report.