Define Your Values, Define Yourself

Fraternity Value: Honor and Respect

Suggested Facilitator: Vice President of Fraternity Development

Goal:
- Each member will identify her top three personal values.
- Members will connect their values to Fraternity heritage and ritual.
- Members will be able to access the Fraternity Heritage Manual, and will feel inclined to revisit and reflect on it.
- Members will acknowledge that ritual can connect to their everyday, inherent values.
- Members will notice similarities between their own organization and other Panhellenic organizations.

Room set-up/materials needed:
- Make sure to have enough space for members to sit comfortably, preferably in chairs.
- You will need a flip chart, poster or butcher paper for writing on during brainstorm sessions.
- If possible, have the Pi Beta Phi core values written out on a big poster or butcher paper for everyone to see.
- Have extra paper and writing utensils available for each individual member.
- Create a list of values to spark some inspiration with the women (i.e., respect, family, faith, laughter, etc.)
- Have print outs of lists of values for 3–5 of the chapters within your Panhellenic Council. These can be found on their organization websites.
- Make sure both lists of values are available throughout the room.

Getting Started

Talking points are indicated with a callout bullet (ään). 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 (→). These are hints you might find helpful when administering the material. Most importantly, have fun!

→ Before presenting this seminar, make sure you’ve completed the activity yourself. This will make it easier and give you reference points when presenting. Ask the Vice President of Communications to help you facilitate the Panhellenic connection piece.

→ Queue up a projector and the following video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuB9S6fzMig

Instructions

→ Introduce the activity.

- Each one of us has the potential to define the things we want to define us. By joining Pi Beta Phi, we agreed to fulfill the vision of our 12 founders, and the core values we were created under: Integrity, Lifelong Commitment, Honor and Respect, Personal and Intellectual Growth, Philanthropic Service to Others and Sincere Friendship. These values represent what it means to be a member of Pi Beta Phi, and play a vital role to the success of our organization. But what does a value really mean? How do we use these values to guide our everyday lives and help make us better women, and a better organization?

- Let’s start by watching this quick video.
If someone followed you around for two weeks with a film crew, what are the three fundamental values they will say you stand for every day of your life? What three words do you hope they say? Are these different?

Have women pair up and share their responses to these questions.

Now, write down the 3–6 values you want to define you every day.

Share your own 3–6 values, and how they connect to the six Pi Beta Phi core values.

Now that you have started to think about your own values, let’s define them. Help someone who doesn’t speak your language understand the values you hold dear, in order to better understand what those values truly mean to you.

Give women 10 minutes to reflect, and then have a few share how they define and connect their values. Share yours as well.

We’ve defined our personal values. How do we want this to show up in our everyday lives? How are we going to create opportunities to live our values?

Have a few women share their responses to these questions with the group. You may need to take time in between questions.

Please pair up with the person next to you and share your values. Then discuss the ways you plan to create opportunities to live them daily.

Allow several minutes for members to discuss. Help them if necessary. Assess the situation as you see fit.

Now, we all have values that we’re individually committed to living daily, let’s apply them to Pi Beta Phi. How do your personal values connect to our Fraternity’s core values?

I’m going to read through Pi Beta Phi’s core values again. How can we create opportunities for our chapter to accomplish these values on a consistent basis?

Write down the brainstormed, tangible ways for the chapter to live each value on a consistent basis on the poster/butch paper with the values listed. If you need to break the women into groups to brainstorm before sharing out to the group, feel free to do so.

We are now going to hold our chapter accountable to these values in tangible ways. Everyone will get a copy of this document to remind them how to be a leader, inside and outside of our chapter every day.

Now, how does this connect to the rest of our fraternity and sorority community?

Pass out the lists of Panhellenic values.

Take the next five minutes to look at these values. Do they look familiar? Do any of them connect to our Pi Beta Phi core values, or the ones you chose for yourself earlier today?

Have women share with the group.

The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) is the umbrella organization for 26 national and international sororities. It was established in 1902 to assist collegiate and alumnae chapters of NPC member organizations in fostering interfraternal relationships (and Pi Beta Phi was a founding member organization!). NPC is the Headquarters equivalent of our campus Panhellenic.
NPC’s mission is to serve as the premier advocacy and support organization for the advancement of the sorority experience. They are committed to relationships built on trust through transparency, accountability and mutual respect. NPC’s core values of friendship, leadership, service, knowledge, integrity and community guide them in fulfilling their mission.

Consider what we’ve discussed up until this point. What is the value of building camaraderie with Panhellenic? As an organization, where are we already successful with this? Where are we missing the mark on this?

Have women share with the group.

As individuals living our values every day, we can contribute to the mission of Pi Beta Phi and our campus Panhellenic simultaneously. What does that look like for you?

Ask for each woman to share one of her values and what it means to her (or in larger chapters, have members share within small groups).

**Final Wrap-Up**

After members have finished sharing, lead the group in the final wrap-up.

Don’t forget your ability to be a leader is predicated on being able to create conditions for living your values. By educating yourself, you’re investing in your potential as a leader, and as a woman.

I hope this has helped you connect to our ritual and heritage in a stronger way. Please do not hesitate to ask me questions at any point, and remember that honoring our ritual and values don’t end after initiation.

**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](http://www.pibetaphi.org/leadingwithvalues) website, to fill out a quick survey. Remember, the name of this seminar is “Define your Values, Define Yourself.” The chapter’s Vice President of Member Development should remember to record the presentation of this program in the chapter’s monthly regional report.