

Youth Minister Case Study

Case Studies are confidential information. They are to be shared only with these in your Case Study Group.

“A Case study is a report, usually written, that presents an event involving a dilemma or problem for consideration. It is a slice of life, a recounting of an actual human situation... it is one person’s recollection of what happened told as accurately and honestly as possible, but which cannot therefore be taken as “the truth of the matter.” Other persons involved may give different accounts. But it is that one person’s recollection, and as such it may be a source of learning, extraordinary event in ministry but rather one that is fairly typical and which involves some responsibility on the part of the student... Case studies are written in first person...” (Coll, *Supervision of Ministry Students*, 78-9)

A case study should be about a specific event in which you were involved **in your role** as a minister. A case study should not be drawn from your “general” life, but from your work in your ministerial role. The event/experience should be one that you have continued to ponder and have specific aspects about which you wish to engage your peers. The case study will normally be one page (single spaced), and in any event never any longer than two pages. The discipline involved in deciding what information should be included in the presentation is part of the learning process. It will allow you to surface the critical issues buried in the event.

Please focus your case study in the context of youth ministry that has involved you. In what context have you discovered a dilemma, problem, or quandary concerning youth ministry? Your case study needs to have the following sections (a-d):

a.) Background

Who are the people? What are their relationships to each other, to you? What is the context? What is your role? If you bring any particular skills or concerns to this event, specify them.

b.) Description of the Event

Determine when the “event” began and when it ended. Describe what happened as objectively as possible, using little or no emotive or evaluative language. You may include line of dialogue between you and other(s), but do not make this verbatim.

c.) Analysis of Your Behavior

What did you do? What did you hope to accomplish in this event/ what did you in fact accomplish? What would you have done differently?

d.) Issues for group Consideration

What specific questions of concerns do you want your group to address? Theological? Biblical? Interpersonal? “What should I have done?” “What should I do now?”...

Case Study Presentations

All case studies are confidential information and should not be shared with anyone outside your group. Bring enough copies for use in your small group. Please collect all copies at the close of the session.

The purpose of the group discussion is to gain greater clarity about the event and its pastoral and theological implications, both for the presenter and for the others in the group. It is not to evaluate the adequacy of the presenter's person, faith, or ministerial skill. The presenter is encouraged to think of the experience as an opportunity for learning, for transforming experience into knowledge and pastoral skill.