

Exercise 1: Advance and Follow Stories: City Council Meeting

INSTRUCTIONS: Write separate and advance follow stories about the following city council meeting. Assume that the meeting was held in Roseville, a suburb of your community.

Information for Advance Story

City Clerk Wilma Durbin said, "There are three issues on the agenda for next Monday's meeting, but you never know. If the council wants to, it can consider other issues that come up. And then they always give everyone in the audience a chance to speak. The issues we've got listed right now include a proposal to give city employees an 8 percent raise. That comes from the city manager's office. Then they will open bids and award a contract for the operation of concession stands at the Civic Center. Number 3 on the agenda, the council will vote on a proposal to limit the number of dogs that anyone can have in a home in a residential area without a permit. The proposal would limit the number of adult dogs in a household to four. That's a controversial topic. Everyone gets excited about dogs."

Information for Follow Story

TOPIC 1: The first issue on the city council's agenda last night was the city budget for next year. City council members debated the size of the raise that city employees will receive. City Manager W.E. Knowles started the discussion, saying, "I recommend an 8 percent across-the-board raise for city employees. Every employee deserves at least that much. We've got a total of 275 employees, and an 8 percent raise would cost the city \$320,000. The annual payroll is about \$4 million, so this would increase it to \$4,320,000. It's really a catch-up raise. If you look at the salaries that the city pays today, and you compare those salaries with the salaries we paid 10 years ago, and then you compare them with the rise in the cost of living over those 10 years, then you'll find that city employees have fallen behind; they've lost 11.5 percent of their salaries to inflation. In constant dollars, they're earning 88.5 percent of what they did 10 years ago. We've also got to give them a good raise to maintain a competitive position in the local labor market. They haven't gotten a decent raise for years, and if we don't give them one this year, we'll begin to lose some key employees. Last year, they got a 3 percent raise, and the year before that they got 4 percent. That's not enough."

Mayor Brad Freeman said, "Eight percent is too much. Everyone agrees they're underpaid and deserve a raise. I don't question that. The real issue is whether we can afford to give them 8 percent. Where would the money come from? We'd have to raise property taxes, but they're already too high. We just don't have the money."

Council member Stacy Ruskiewicz said, "I don't know enough about the budget to say what we can and can't afford. Tax revenues might go up next year, or we might cut back somewhere else. I think this is important, but let's get some more information before deciding anything. I move that we ask the city treasurer to look into this and report back to us at our meeting next week." Her motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

TOPIC 2: The council then opened 14 bids for the right to operate concession stands at the city's Civic Center. The high bidder, Dehuer Catering, agreed to give the city 21.3 percent of its gross receipts if it was awarded the exclusive contract to operate all the concession stands at the Civic Center, and it was granted the contract. The next highest bidder offered the city 18.61 percent of its gross receipts. The low bid was 12 percent. It is estimated by Civic Center authorities that the total receipts at the concession stands may exceed \$1.5 million on an annual basis. The contract is for a five-year period of time.

TOPIC 3: City Zoning Director Mack Felino offered a new ordinance that specifies that no homeowner in an area zoned for single- or multi-family residences could keep more than four dogs that are older than six months without a license from the city. To obtain a license, dog owners would have to demonstrate that they have ample room and facilities for the dogs and that the dogs would not be a nuisance to neighbors. A license would cost \$100. Felino then added, "We have found that many city residents receive additional income from breeding and selling these animals, especially dogs, and it's often a nuisance for neighbors. We need to place some restrictions on the breeding of dogs. People

shouldn't be allowed to have commercial kennels in residential neighborhoods. We don't permit any other kinds of businesses in residential neighborhoods, and we shouldn't permit these kennels."

City Councilperson Willie Ralph said, "I agree with all that's being said. We're going to have a lot of people angry with us if we adopt this law, but we need some guidelines for the number of animals kept in homes. I'd say this is my number 1 problem as a city council member. Every week I've got people calling and complaining about barking dogs and strange dogs running loose in their yards, and I know the police get hundreds of these calls."

City Councilperson Duwayne Tutone said, "This isn't something we should rush into. I'm not convinced it's necessary, or even a good thing. There are lots of people living in this city who hunt and who raise dogs for show, and they have a right to as many dogs as they want. How many dogs someone has isn't any of our business. We've already got enough other laws, so if there's a real problem with noise or anything, it can be taken care of."

Council approved the proposal, thus limiting people living in residential areas to a maximum of four dogs age six months or older. The vote was 7-2, with Tutone and Larry Raftis voting against the proposal.

TOPIC 4: James Gracie is the city attorney. He has been the city attorney for the past nine years. He submitted his resignation at the end of the meeting. His resignation was a surprise. No one expected it. He said he wants to go into private law practice and has been offered a good job as a partner with a major law firm in the city. Council members asked him to continue working until his replacement can be found. He agreed. The job will be advertised, with the deadline for applications on the last day of next month. The job currently pays \$60,000 a year and is a full-time position.

Exercise 2: Speech: Self-defense Against Rape

INSTRUCTIONS: Write separate advance and follow stories about the following speech. Because the speech is reprinted verbatim, you can use direct quotations while reporting the follow story.

Information for advance story:

Albert Innis is a lieutenant in the Detective Bureau of the city's police department. He will speak at the YWCA Friday about the topic of rape. The speech will be open to the public free of charge. Women, particularly, are urged to attend the meeting by the sponsor, the YWCA Young Adults Section. The speech will begin at 8 p.m. in Room 12. Innis has agreed to answer questions from the audience at the conclusion of his speech. Members of the Young Adults Section will hold their monthly business meeting after the conclusion of the speech, and the public is also welcome to attend the meeting. To be eligible for membership in the section, women must be between the ages of 18 and 35. The Young Adults Section is sponsoring the presentation because of public interest in the topic of rape and its importance to women, a club representative said. According to some estimates, there are 10 rapes for every one reported to the police.

Speech for Follow Story:

I've been asked to come here tonight to talk to you about rape. I'd like to begin by discussing three myths about rape. Two concern the victim, another the rapist. According to one myth, the victim is always young and attractive; movies and television programs perpetuate this myth. The truth is that every woman is a potential victim. Last year, the victims in this city ranged in age from 2 to 91 years. A second myth is that the woman provokes the attack. But sexual assault isn't provoked by a woman's behavior or by the way she dresses. The truth is that the rapist selects his victim on the basis of opportunity. Most rapists select as their victims women who appear vulnerable and alone. Third, it's also a myth to think that rape is committed for sexual gratification. Sex is not the motivating factor. Rapists have feelings of hostility, aggression and inferiority, and they enjoy overpowering and degrading their victims; it raises their self-esteem. Rape can occur virtually anywhere, but it is most likely to occur in the victim's home or in the home of the assailant. Often, the assailant is someone the victim knows either closely or by sight. Most rapists are emotionally unstable, and all rapists have the potential to be violent. Outwardly, they appear to be normal, but most have difficulty relating to other people and establishing lasting relationships. No one can predict how a woman will react when actually confronted with the threat of sexual assault. Panic and fear are perfectly normal responses. The first few moments you may be too terrified to utter a sound. That's perfectly normal. But if you have thought in advance about the possibility of sexual assault, the shock won't be as great. And if you mentally prepare yourself in advance and think about what you might do, you may be able to react more quickly and effectively. One tactic available to women is making noise. Sometimes screaming "Fire!" or "Call the police!" or blowing a whistle if you have one with you may frighten away your assailant or bring help. But it may antagonize him. All the alternatives involve some dangers, and screaming can make an assailant angrier, and he may beat you or try to strangle you to keep you quiet. You have to weigh the odds, depending on the situation, of this tactic being successful. A second tactic is trying to run to safety. But unless you are reasonably certain you can get a good lead and reach safety before he overtakes you, this may be too risky. Make sure you have a place to run where someone will help. If you try running away and your assailant overtakes you, it may make him even more violent. A third tactic is trying to gain a psychological advantage. Try to defuse your assailant's anger and give yourself time to think. If you do something the rapist doesn't expect, it may stop or delay him because rapists want to be in control, and many can't cope with actions they don't expect. This tactic can take many forms — going limp, sinking to the ground and eating grass, hiding your face to stick your fingers down your throat and cause yourself to vomit, making yourself belch, even urinating on your attacker. Crying might be effective in some instances. You should understand that rapists don't understand or recognize the rights of women as individuals. So it's important to teach them in a way that breaks their fantasies and allows them to see you as an individual with honest feelings and concerns — not as an object. Many of these men put women on a pedestal and, through sexual assault, feel they're cutting women down to size. You might try to speak calmly and sincerely as one human being trying to reach out to another. Don't beg, plead, cower or make small talk. That's what these assailants expect to hear, and it may antagonize them even more. Talk about

something that interests you — anything you can talk about comfortably — a pet, a recent movie you've seen, a book you're reading, a recent death in the family. The important thing is to convince your assailant you're concerned about him as a person. The last tactic available to you is fighting, but you should keep in mind the fact that all rapists have the potential for inflicting serious harm; they are all potentially violent, so fighting is the last tactic to try if all the others have failed. And if you use this tactic, you have to be willing and able to inflict serious injury. If you try fighting and fail to completely incapacitate your assailant, your risk of receiving serious injury is greatly increased. Most studies show that about half of all rapists carry some weapon, and you have to always assume they're willing to use the weapons. If you are going to fight, use surprise and speed to your advantage. For instance, gently put your hands on the assailant's face and get your thumbs near his eyes, then press his eyeballs suddenly with your thumbs as hard as you can. This will put the assailant into shock and could blind him. Or grab his testicles, squeeze as hard as you can and jerk or pull to inflict immobilizing pain. There is no universal prescription for foiling sexual assaults. No one can tell you what specific tactics to use. What worked for one woman may not work for you. It all depends upon the circumstances, your basic personality and your perceptions of the rapist. The way you react may depend upon your physical condition. The very thought of sexual assault makes some women so angry that they would rather face the risk of serious injury. Other women may want to escape with the least possible injury or may be more concerned about the safety of other members of their families than with rape or other injury to themselves. Thank you.

Exercise 3: Fire Marshal's Speech: CPR

INSTRUCTIONS: Assume that Steven Chen, the training officer for your city's fire department, gave this speech to the Rotary Club at a breakfast meeting in your city today. Write a story that summarizes his comments. Because this is a verbatim copy of his comments, you can use direct quotes.

I've been asked to talk to you this morning about CPR: cardiopulmonary resuscitation. What we'd like to happen is for everyone to learn CPR themselves instead of counting on paramedics to revive someone in an emergency. A few weeks ago, we had a man drown in a hotel pool just a few blocks from here. He was pulled from the water by a woman sitting by the pool, but he died because no one knew CPR. When paramedics arrived, it was too late. The situation is a typical one, repeated somewhere almost every day. You can't fault the paramedics. They respond as quickly as possible. Rarely can we save a victim that has not had CPR done to them before we arrive. Depending on the location, it takes our rescue squad from 1 to 10 minutes to respond to a call. The American Heart Association recommends that CPR be done in no more than 4 to 6 minutes to keep the person alive. After 10 minutes, we don't even try to start CPR. After 10 minutes, the brain damage is too severe for the person to lead a normal life if he were resuscitated. There are exceptions to the 10-minute rule. Last winter, you may have read, a small boy was successfully resuscitated after 45 minutes. But he had been submerged in icy water. That rescue was possible because the cold temperature slowed down the boy's body responses enough so that no brain damage was done. If it's summer and hot and humid, the heat and humidity quicken the body's responses and make it impossible to survive without brain damage. Most of our calls where we have to use CPR are near drownings. The more swimming pools people build in their backyards, the more calls we get. Statistics show that people have a better chance of drowning in their own backyard pool than in public swimming areas. The statistics show the safest place to swim is a patrolled beach, since all the lifeguards there are required to know CPR. Also, help gets to them quicker, and the lifeguards prevent trouble — horseplay and roughhousing — that could lead to serious accidents. I would like to see us follow the footsteps of Seattle, where 1 out of every 3 people knows CPR, the highest rate in the country. Here, classes are offered by various schools and medical organizations, and at least once a year at each of the city's fire stations. Classes usually take about 8 hours to complete. That's all I have to say, but I'll be happy to answer your questions.

Q: Do the classes cost anything?

A: No, just \$4.99 for a workbook.

Q: What can you do to help if you don't know CPR?

A: The most important thing is to call for help and then to stay calm until help arrives.

Q: If you use CPR and there's a problem, if something goes wrong, can you be sued?

A: The state has a Good Samaritan law, and it covers possible lawsuits for injuring someone while trying to revive them. So if you've had the proper training and try it, you're fully protected. It's nothing to worry about.

Exercise 4: Speech: Underage Drinking

INSTRUCTIONS: You are to write a story based on the remarks by the U.S. Surgeon General regarding underage drinking. The remarks were presented at a press conference at 10 a.m. in Washington, D.C., to launch the surgeon general's call to action to prevent and reduce underage drinking. The speakers were Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu (M.D., M.P.H.), Acting United States Surgeon General in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Mary Easley, co-chair of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free; Michele Ridge, a founder and board member of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free; Koren Zailckas, the New York Times best-selling author of "Smashed." You will also want to incorporate the remarks of the other speakers in the story along with the surgeon general's remarks, as well as the question and answer responses attached at the end of the speeches. Because this is a verbatim transcript of the remarks, you may use direct quotes, partial quotes or paraphrase any statements.

Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu

Good morning, everyone. My name is Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu; I'm the acting Surgeon General of the United States. I'd like to thank you all for joining us here today. I am here to address a very significant public health and safety problem: alcohol use by America's children and teenagers. Underage drinking is not just about spring break, and it's not just about parties. As early as ages 8 and 9, our children are confronted with decisions about alcohol on a regular basis in many settings—including at home and at school. The 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates that there are almost 11 million underage drinkers in the United States. We also know that drinking and binge drinking ramp up during the teen years. Nearly 20 percent of 14-year-olds say that they have been drunk at least once. This needs to stop. Underage drinking is everybody's problem—and its solution is everyone's responsibility. Unfortunately, too many Americans see underage drinking as a rite of passage—kids just being kids. The reality is that our young people are being harmed by underage drinking. That's why this Call to Action is attempting to change the culture and attitudes toward underage drinking in America. We can no longer ignore what alcohol is doing to our children. The adverse consequences of underage drinking are wide-ranging; they include academic failure, risky sexual behavior, injuries, and even death. In fact, each year, more than 5,000 deaths of people under age 21 are linked to underage drinking. Think of that: entire college campuses wiped clean of the entire student body; every year, the equivalent. As with every Surgeon General's publication, this Call to Action is grounded in science. The science indicates that underage drinking is putting our children at risk. Recent research shows that the brain continues to develop well beyond childhood and throughout adolescence. This research raises concerns that underage drinking may affect short-term and long-term cognitive functions, and may change the brain in ways that can lead to future alcohol dependence. Research also shows that young people who start drinking before the age of 15 are five times more likely to have alcohol problems later in life. The bottom line is that research provides more reasons than ever before for parents and other adults to be concerned about the effects of underage drinking on our Nation's children, and to take steps to prevent and to reduce underage drinking. This Call to Action is a call to every American to join with the Surgeon General in a national effort to address underage drinking early, continuously, and in the context of human development. I want to thank some of the people here today who led the way in developing The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking. Dr. Ting-Kai Li and his staff at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, especially Drs. Vivian Faden and Patricia Powell; Dr. Cline and his staff at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, especially Mark Weber and Steve Wing; Charles Curie, who helped initiate the Call to Action when he was administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking, and in particular a recent retiree, Dr. Ron Schoenfeld, who was our representative to that committee; and finally, but certainly not least, the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, for their hard work to address the problem of underage drinking and their support for this Call to Action. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge Mrs. Hope Taft, the former First Lady of Ohio, one of the founders of this Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free. This Call to Action identifies six goals that we will be joining with all sectors of society to address. The first goal is that we need to foster changes in society that facilitate healthy adolescent development and that help prevent and reduce underage drinking. The second—to engage parents and schools, communities, all levels of government, all social systems that interface with youth, and youth themselves, in a

coordinated national effort to prevent and reduce underage drinking and its consequences. Number three: Promote an understanding of underage alcohol consumption in the context of human development and maturation that takes into account individual adolescent characteristics as well as the environmental, ethnic, cultural, and gender differences. Number four: Conduct additional research on adolescent alcohol use and its relationship to development. Number five: Work to improve public health surveillance on underage drinking and on population-based risk factors for this behavior. And finally, work to ensure that policies at all levels are consistent with the national goal of preventing and reducing underage alcohol consumption. As many of you know, the Office of the Surgeon General is committed to providing the best scientific information in a way that people can use and understand. By making health information easier to understand, we allow people to actively take steps to increase their health and wellness and to actually prevent disease as a result of healthy choices. In addition to this Call to Action, I will soon release several "Guides to Action" with the science presented in a way that Americans can understand and apply to their individual and their family circumstances. I am confident that the information in this Call to Action, when broadly disseminated and discussed among parents, teachers, community leaders, and young people themselves will literally save lives. I expect to issue the "Guides to Action" at events in States throughout our Nation over the next few months. Before moving to the next part of our program, I want to specifically recognize the millions of parents who have worked to prevent their children from drinking. You may have often felt that you were fighting this battle alone. You were not and you no longer will be fighting this battle alone. With this Call to Action, I am asking every American to join in a national effort to change attitudes and behaviors regarding underage drinking. Our children deserve nothing less. Now, I would like to introduce you to one of the champions of this Call to Action. Mary Easley is the co-chair of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free. She is also the First Lady of North Carolina. Mrs. Easley...

Mary Easley

Thank you. Thank you and good morning. On behalf of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, its 31 current governor spouses and representatives, its 23 emeritus spouses, and on behalf of children and families across America, thank you, Dr. Moritsugu, for issuing this Call to Action to prevent and reduce underage drinking. A Call to Action issued by the Office of United States Surgeon General provides validation, focus, and encouragement to the many concerned citizens throughout this country who have been working persistently-and, I might add, in ever-increasing numbers-to educate parents, community leaders, and our children about this major public health problem that poses a serious threat to the healthy development of America's youth. Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for our children, and every year it kills more people — more young people — than all illegal drugs combined. I would like to repeat that because it's a statistic that is really shocking, so you need to take a minute to really let it sink in. Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for children. Every single year, it kills more young people than all illegal drugs combined. Ask any police officer who has dispatched to a fatality along the side of the road in the early morning hours. Talk to any emergency room nurse or physician who has just pumped a stomach. Spend some time at a rape crisis center or with a substance-abuse professional, and they will tell you that alcohol use by our young people is real and widespread with far-reaching impact on every one of us. In a few minutes, you're going to hear from Koren Zailckas, and as she speaks, her story — keep in mind — is no isolated tale of woe or an aberration of behavior. Her story is a consistent theme of youth alcohol use, and it is something that is a theme that echoes throughout America, whether you come from a small rural town or a major metropolitan area. Hers is the voice of truth and experience and so it should resonate with you as it did with me. But the good news is that in every State and territory in this country there are people who are devoted to educating parents, raising their awareness, raising the awareness and facts available to children and our community leaders with science-based information about the serious health threats associated with the early onset of alcohol use. Coalitions among community leaders, young people, law enforcement, businesses, and educators are reaching into our communities throughout this country and gaining strength while they are raising awareness and providing real strategies for positive change. America is awakening to the need to take action on the National, State, and community levels, and this Call to Action is a valuable tool in that effort. The Surgeon General's Call to Action to prevent and reduce underage drinking plays a pivotal role in that awakening. It represents a practical, evidence-based approach that defines the problems and the challenges that are presented with the issue of underage drinking, and it also provides a framework for prevention and reduction of alcohol use and alcohol disorders in adolescents. The Surgeon General's Call to Action spotlights youth drinking in a way that will help coordinate all of our individual efforts on a national

scale, and that brings important focus and clarity to the discussion. Dr. Moritsugu, please know that the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, along with our many partners throughout America, many of whom are represented here today, will take up your call and will use it as a springboard to learn more, to do more, to work harder and smarter than ever before. When the Office of United States Surgeon General speaks on a public health issue, Americans everywhere, parents everywhere, will listen and take note. Your action today as a highly respected national voice to the conversation about youth alcohol use as a major public health problem, it is a voice that will help all of us take this message back to our States and communities with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. This Call to Action represents the facts and the science as we know it today. All of us are grateful to have this tool to use. It's a valuable tool for parents. It's a valuable tool for community leaders as we begin to address this problem nationally and work on it individually. So thank you very much for that, Doctor. Now I'd like to call to the lectern Michele Ridge, who is the former First Lady of Pennsylvania and one of the original members of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free. And I would be remiss, however, if I didn't recognize one of my co-chairs, Nancy Freudenthal, who is here, and also Lori Holden, the former First Lady of Missouri, as well as our friend Hope Taft from Ohio. But right now Michele Ridge will come forward, the former First Lady of Pennsylvania, one of our founders of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, and a board member of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free foundation. Michele . . .

Michele Ridge

Thank you, Mary, and good morning on such an exciting day for those of us across the land who have been working so hard on this issue. I have been a member of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free since its inception in March of 2000, and working to prevent drinking by children ages 9 to 15 both in Pennsylvania and nationwide. Every day in this country, 7,000 children under the age of 16 take their first drink. As you've heard this morning from Dr. Moritsugu, childhood drinking is associated with a range of consequences, from academic failure to future alcohol dependence. We also know that drinking and binge drinking increase dramatically with age. By the time they are seniors in high school, 75 percent of our young people will report having had a drink. Those are just numbers, but behind the numbers are individual children growing up all over America and their families. It is not just the estimated 5,000 underage drinking-related deaths each year of people under the age of 21, it's how alcohol can interfere with the journey to adulthood, derailing plans, shattering dreams, and compromising futures-but there is hope. Underage drinking is a preventable problem, one we can solve if each of us does our part. For too long, underage drinking has been fueled by denial, inaction, and acceptance. That changes today. Members of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free stand ready and willing to do our part. We invite Dr. Moritsugu to join our members across the nation in bringing this Call to Action to their respective States. We will use this Call to Action to guide us as we devote energy and resources to changing the culture around underage drinking. It will serve to galvanize our efforts, elevate the issue, and increase public discourse on this issue, and make us even more effective. We are proud that the Leadership encouraged the Surgeon General's office to develop this Call to Action, and we are so pleased with this document released today. We thank Dr. Moritsugu for making the prevention and reduction of underage drinking a priority, and calling attention to the grave harm that results when our children and adolescents drink. We pledge to use this Call to Action to generate meaningful and positive change. So I thank you for this invitation opportunity to be here. And now, Mary Easley has already given a somewhat introduction to our next speaker, Koren Zailckas, a New York Times best-selling author of "Smashed," the story of a drunken girlhood. She will provide her personal insights on the toll underage drinking exacts on the lives of young people. Thank you.

Koren Zailckas

Good morning. I am as excited as a cheerleader on game day to be here in support of this Call to Action. Issues surrounding alcohol abuse and underage drinking have a real personal significance to me; they're really near to my heart. I'm here, quite simply, as mentioned because I wrote a book called "Smashed" which is about my experiences drinking in high school and in college, and it's my true account. I wrote it for a couple of reasons — one personal, one a little bit more cultural. On a personal level, I was 23 and living in New York and quitting drinking, and I became really preoccupied with this old memory that I had, something I hadn't thought about in a number of years, but suddenly couldn't stop thinking about, which was this night that I had my stomach pumped when I was 16 after a night of drinking too much at a friend's weekend party. And, being a writer, somebody who had always processed experiences on paper, I sort of immediately sat down and started to write about it,

to write what later became that chapter in my book. But on a cultural level, during that time, I was hearing so much in the news about girls of my generation and girls of this generation, girls of our generation, and how we were drinking just so much younger and so much more than all the women who'd gone before us, way more than our mothers ever did, sometimes more than our older sisters, and how this had really just happened in the last 10 years, since the 1990s. And I didn't agree with what I was hearing from the sociologists and the psychologists, sometimes the journalists who all seemed to be suggesting that girls like myself were drinking more because we were so liberated and self confident and happy and bursting with girl power. I thought that was a little bit nuts because as I was beginning to reflect on my own experiences I could see I had been drinking in large part as a teenager because it was an expression of my unhappiness or my lack of confidence, especially in social situations. So I had all these experiences, I thought maybe I could offer something like the young person's perspective, the young woman's perspective. My experience is not all that uncommon in this day and age. Actually, pretty closely mirror sort of some of the big grim statistics that you see in this Call to Action. I had my first drink when I was 14; it was the tail end of eighth grade. I drank throughout high school, had my first close call when I was 16, which was that night that I had my stomach pumped and I was drinking at a friend's party. It was a terrifying experience. It scared the bejeezus out of my parents, scared the heck out of myself, and afterwards I certainly cleaned up my act a little bit, curbed my drinking, until I graduated from high school and went to college, when suddenly my enthusiasm for alcohol was renewed, if not only because, one, it was so accessible on a college campus, but also that parents, teachers sometimes administrators, sort of implicitly expected—and I think accepted—that my peers and I would drink underage and drink to excess. Don't get me wrong, I don't think they were thrilled about the idea that we were drinking ourselves unconscious, but for the time being they were willing to look the other way. They thought it was part of the normal college experience, a life stage behavior that we would eventually outgrow when we graduated and entered the real world. My experiences at college: I saw some of those more horrifying consequences that result from this kind of underage drinking and binge drinking—a lot of alcohol-fueled depression, a lot of blackouts, things like date rape and sexual assaults. Since I published my book, sort of the most rewarding experience for me has been going out there and opening up a dialog, visiting at high schools across the country, touring colleges and universities, and what I've noticed in these places while I've been talking to young people, to teachers, to administrators, is, one, just the pervasiveness of this problem. It's something that affects all of us really as a culture. I go to colleges on meets and actually it's worth noting on the college level—it's almost half and half; it's almost half-of all college kids are drinking the way that I did. Fortunately the half that aren't are still a little bit higher at this moment in time, but what I notice when I visit is that even the kids who aren't drinking this way come and want to talk to me because maybe they're concerned about their friend, they're wondering what they can do to help them. When I go to high schools and talk to parents, even parents who feel like they're on top of their game — they have the alcohol conversations with their kids, maybe there is a lock on the liquor cabinet and they don't in any way tolerate the idea that it's okay for 15- and 16-year-olds to be drinking &\$151; they come to me concerned because maybe their children's friends' parents are still under the impression that underage drinking is okay so long as it's done at home and you confiscate all the kids' car keys. And, when I go to universities, I talk to administrators who have spent a whole lot of grant dollars, they've done a whole lot of research, they've work really hard to implement these alcohol policies, but they're concerned because just 2 miles off campus there's a whole stretch of bars where ladies drink free and you don't necessarily need a valid ID to get in — maybe a library card will do. So I think maybe this is a problem that affects all of us. And sort of one of the obstacles in terms of dealing with it thus far is we haven't all been on the same page, and that's what I love about this Call to Action. I think it's about getting everyone caught up to speed and giving everyone in our communities the information and education and science that they need to understand these statistics and to change them. But that's what I want to go back to my own story, just for a moment, because I'm not a sociologist, I'm a memoirist, a girl with a few cautionary tales at first leave. I wanted to just briefly run through a list of things I wish someone had told myself and my parents when I was sort of in the throes of my own underage drinking. And I think there are things that I'm really glad to see incorporated into this Call to Action, one of which is just the importance of prevention. I think in my own mind, it will always be easier to convince that 14-year-old that maybe it's not a great idea to take that first step that will be to convince someone at 16, 18, 20, who is already caught on the little hamster wheel, deep into that cycle of destructive drinking, that there's something wrong with that, or that maybe there's another way to socialize. I think a lot of it comes back to have to, we have to realize just how young we need to talk to kids. Unfortunately, as uncomfortable as it makes us, kids are taking their first drink in sixth and seventh

and eighth grade. So if we're waiting to talk to them until they get to high school, sometimes we're already too late. Likewise, I think, of course, we can't wait until we catch kids drinking, which was something that happened with my parents and I. And we can't just have the conversation once. We can't talk to kids and think, "Hmm, that's done, got it out of the way," and check it off our list. We can't, of course, only talk about it during May, which is when our high schoolers are graduating and having their senior proms, and we can't only talk about it now in March when we're sending kids off to Cancun for spring break. Yes, these are high-risk times of year, and yes, we see a lot of widely publicized underage drinking and binge drinking, but the problem is going on year-round, of course and it's a [inaudible] concern. Likewise, I think we can't wait for warning signs, which is something that everyone always did for me. You know, our girls especially, we're failing them if we wait for warning signs. Girls are conditioned not to get drunk and act out in ways that get noticed. I never did. We're not going to get into fist fights and end up in hospitals, bloodied where people recognize our problems and get us help. And a lot of us also, some of us will exhibit failing grades, but many of us won't. I didn't, in particular. So if we're teaching parents and kids that they have to wait for falling GPAs, that's not going to work either. There's a real "party hard, think hard" mentality especially that I see on college campuses whereby kids think as long as they are studying as hard as they're drinking, then they're okay, they're on track and nothing is wrong. But finally, and most importantly, I think it is really important that we rally young people on this issue, that we don't completely focus and get caught up on the one risk that is drinking and driving. It, of course, is devastating, but that one risk tends to eclipse a lot of others. And we know now things we didn't even know 10 years ago when I started drinking about the way alcohol affects the teenage brain, which is hopefully continuing to grow and develop from the time we're 14 to the time we're my age, mid 20s. But, yeah, I think this message will always be more powerful when it comes from one of our own. Being a writer, someone who's preoccupied with words, I just love the phrase, "Call to Action," because here today in this room, this is just the call-right?-and hopefully in the months and years that follow we're going to spring into action. And it always reminds me of that wonderful Mother Theresa quote, if you know the one I'm talking about, where she said there is a light in this world, a healing spirit that comes when ordinary people hear a call and respond in extraordinary ways. So I think we need to get young people on the horn because they're going to surprise us and really respond in extraordinary ways to this issue. But, thank you for your time and I'll turn it back over.

Dr. Moritsugu Thank you so much, Koren, for your testimony and your sharing with us your own personal story. You know, we can provide you numbers, we can provide you data, but we have to remember that behind every number, behind the data, is a human face; and we have seen one very brave human face here, an individual who is willing to step forward and to share her personal experiences with us so that we would be better motivated to protect our children and our future generations.

I want to thank you again all for being here today. As you are all probably aware, copies of this Call to Action are now available on the Surgeon General's web site, www.surgeongeneral.gov. It's downloadable and we will also have hard copies and they should be in your press kits.

Q&A

[Dr. Moritsugu]: And now I'd like to invite Dr. Li and Dr. Cline, our partners in the development of this Call to Action, to please join me here on the stage for any questions that members of the press may have. And so at this point I'd like to open the floor to questions from the press with the request that before you ask your question you would identify yourself and your affiliation so that we will know who you are. Any questions? Yes, right here in the front. Someone will be bringing you a microphone. Thank you.

Q: I'm with Substance Abuse Funding News, and my question for Dr. Cline is: How do you think this Call to Action might carry over into programs at SAMHSA?

A[Dr. Moritsugu]: If I might begin, I think that what this Call to Action is really meant to do is to mobilize all segments of our society, not only the Federal Government, not only SAMHSA and NIH, but also going into the communities and all the way down to the family unit and to the individual youth. In order for us to really make a difference, we're going to have to mobilize all segments of society-working together, working in concert, working synergistically-and part of that partnership will be the Federal Government. Dr. Cline.

A[Dr. Cline]: Thank you for the question. The Call to Action provides us with an incredible tool, a tool

that includes information, science, and best practices, evidence-based practices, so we will be integrating the Call to Action, the information, the guidelines included in the Call to Action to all of our grantees, to prevention specialists across the country. We will be including this information at future town hall meetings. This last year, I think many of you are aware, SAMHSA worked in partnership with many groups to sponsor about 1,400 town halls across the United States with a specific focus and attention to the issue of underage drinking prevention. So this tool for future town halls, this information will be provided to those groups as well as to the participants-every single community last year.

Q: In 2003, the government recommended increasing the excise tax on alcohol as one of the ways to reduce underage drinking. Why is this not one of your plans in the Call to Action?

A[Dr. Moritsugu]: Thank you for that question. One of the approaches that we have taken is to look at the issue of prevention of underage drinking across the board, and what we have found is that there is science that shows that by increasing the price of alcohol, that that actually does have an impact on reducing the utilization and the demand. Price incorporates many different things. Price may have an impact on whether or not there will be free women's nights at a local tavern, happy hours, increasing prices, not necessarily having sales of alcohol, particularly in areas where our youth would have access to them. Taxes are one of those larger issues — price — that has an impact on price. And rather than drilling down and giving very specific examples, we have elected to look at this from a much broader perspective. But taxes, happy hour prices, pricing at our retail outlets-all of these have an impact upon the accessibility and the utilization of alcohol by everyone, as well as in particular making it less accessible to our underage drinkers.

Closing Remarks (Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu)

Any other questions? Well, I am glad that we have provided you the information that you may need to hopefully carry this message out into the communities. This is a press conference and we look to partnering also with our media to be able to carry this Call to Action out across the country. This is an issue, again, because underage drinking is everybody's problem and its solution is everyone's responsibility. Once again, thank you all for joining us this morning.

Exercise 5: Deputy Director's Speech: Fighting

INSTRUCTIONS: You are to write a story based on the remarks by the deputy director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics regarding governmental corruption. The remarks were presented at a global forum in South Africa.

Remarks of Joseph Gangloff
Deputy Director,
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
United States Head of Delegation

FIFTH GLOBAL FORUM ON FIGHTING CORRUPTION AND SAFEGUARDING INTEGRITY
SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
APRIL 2

The United States welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Fifth Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity. For me personally, it is a particular pleasure and honor to have been invited to participate in this opening plenary session. I have had the privilege of participating in each Global Forum since the process began in 1999. Having served as a planner and presenter in the previous Forums, I deeply appreciate the enthusiasm of participants to share experiences in order to better understand the challenges that we face. I am confident that each of us will be energized and inspired during this Forum. The United States thanks our hosts, the Government of the Republic of South Africa, for its efforts in planning this Global Forum. Before I begin my formal presentation, I would like to note that my delegation will be releasing its national statement tomorrow. That statement will provide detailed information about the domestic and international anticorruption efforts of the United States. This afternoon, I would like to suggest some practical observations that may help guide us in our discussions this week as we address the most significant common challenges of effectively confronting corruption. The theme for this Global Forum—"Fulfilling Our Commitments: Effective Action Against Corruption"—is particularly timely. The theme reflects the substantial progress that has been made in meeting the initial objectives of the Global Forum process that was launched at the First Global Forum on Fighting Corruption held eight years ago in the United States.

The UN Convention Against Corruption: a New Framework for Global Action

At the time of the First Global Forum, there were few international commitments relating to corruption. The first anticorruption treaty—the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption—had been finalized only three years earlier. The OECD Convention Against Bribery in International Business Transactions was only in its infant stage. How times have changed.

As you know, shortly following the Second Global Forum in 2001, more than 130 nations gathered in Vienna to develop the first truly globally negotiated treaty against corruption. The result was the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. The Convention was completed soon after the Third Global Forum in 2003. It entered into force in 2005—the same year as the Fourth Global Forum. The United Nations Convention goes far beyond any previously existing international anticorruption commitments. It provides a comprehensive and formal vehicle for global action against corruption. The theme of this Global Forum is action. As we move forward with collective and individual action, the comprehensive commitments of the United Nations Convention provide the clear path. The Convention provides the framework for effective global action. The Global Forum process deserves high praise for moving the international community to where we are today. We should congratulate the International Organizing Committee and the various Global Forum host nations. The Global Forum process has achieved far more than its original goals of focusing high-level governmental attention on the shared problem of corruption, increasing international cooperation in this area, and promoting global anticorruption standards and actions. Now, it is time to move beyond the Global Forum process to focus global resources on the United Nations Convention and its implementation. A new global intergovernmental process began in 2006—the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention—which we believe will take the original goals of the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption to a new level—reaching beyond political commitment to achieve effective global action. Shared Actions
Everyone here recognizes that the fight against corruption cannot occur in isolation. This has been the

message of past Global Forums, as well as of international agreements such as the United Nations Convention. Nations must work together on a number of fronts. Over the period spanned by the past two Global Forums in Seoul and Brasilia, the international community has recognized that combating high-level corruption and tracing stolen assets are efforts of great importance to us all. Denying safe haven to the illicit proceeds of corruption and to individual corrupt actors is critical. Numerous multilateral groups—such as the Group of Eight (G8), the African Union (AU), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, and the OECD-UNDP "Good Governance for Development in Arab States" (GfD) Initiative—have embraced the concept of denying safe haven to corrupt actors and to the proceeds of their corruption. Denying safe havens can only work if there is cooperation and joint action among multiple nations. Otherwise, corrupt actors will simply look elsewhere, identifying and taking advantage of vulnerable gaps. The international community must give prompt, effective attention to those involved in grand corruption. This particularly lethal level of corruption robs nations and citizens of their hopes and future. Shared Responsibility Each of us must take responsibility for ensuring that corruption does not flourish within our own backyards. The United Nations Convention provides a framework: the Convention calls for targeted prevention measures and for clear actions to criminalize corrupt conduct. Moving to action means honoring these commitments—and also ensuring that criminal laws are enforced and applied equitably. Recently, the Africa Forum on Fighting Corruption emphasized the importance to the region of speedy ratification of, and accession to, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. We should all cooperate with and support those countries that are committed to establishing and implementing laws that will give practical effect to the letter and spirit of this instrument.

Moving Forward

Although we come from different backgrounds and political systems, we all understand that safeguarding our economic and political systems is critical to long-term peace and prosperity. A cornerstone of the Global Forum process has been our shared desire to develop and to implement strong anticorruption principles. The United Nations Convention Against Corruption is the most ambitious international anti-corruption effort in history. Notably, the asset recovery chapter of the Convention provides the first intergovernmental framework for cooperating in asset recovery cases. In closing, we are indebted to the leading countries and distinguished officials who through the Global Forum and other intergovernmental processes have shared a unifying conviction to reject a culture of corruption in every corner of the world. There is a saying that "a rising tide lifts all boats." Our collective vision—carried through the Global Forum process and leading to the United Nations Convention—has been that rising tide, lifting our communities closer to the ultimate goal of government without corruption. Thank you.

Exercise 6: Inaugural Address of George W. Bush; January 20, 2001

INSTRUCTIONS: You are to write a story from the remarks made below in the first inaugural address by President George W. Bush. Since the speech is reprinted verbatim, you may quote the material presented as direct quotes, partial quotes or paraphrase what the president said.

President Clinton, distinguished guests and my fellow citizens:

The peaceful transfer of authority is rare in history, yet common in our country. With a simple oath, we affirm old traditions and make new beginnings.

As I begin, I thank President Clinton for his service to our nation; and I thank Vice President Gore for a contest conducted with spirit and ended with grace.

I am honored and humbled to stand here, where so many of America's leaders have come before me, and so many will follow.

We have a place, all of us, in a long story. A story we continue, but whose end we will not see. It is the story of a new world that became a friend and liberator of the old, a story of a slave-holding society that became a servant of freedom, the story of a power that went into the world to protect but not possess, to defend but not to conquer. It is the American story. A story of flawed and fallible people, united across the generations by grand and enduring ideals. The grandest of these ideals is an unfolding American promise that everyone belongs, that everyone deserves a chance, that no insignificant person was ever born. Americans are called upon to enact this promise in our lives and in our laws; and though our nation has sometimes halted, and sometimes delayed, we must follow no other course.

Through much of the last century, America's faith in freedom and democracy was a rock in a raging sea. Now it is a seed upon the wind, taking root in many nations. Our democratic faith is more than the creed of our country, it is the inborn hope of our humanity, an ideal we carry but do not own, a trust we bear and pass along; and even after nearly 225 years, we have a long way yet to travel.

While many of our citizens prosper, others doubt the promise, even the justice, of our own country. The ambitions of some Americans are limited by failing schools and hidden prejudice and the circumstances of their birth; and sometimes our differences run so deep, it seems we share a continent, but not a country. We do not accept this, and we will not allow it. Our unity, our union, is the serious work of leaders and citizens in every generation; and this is my solemn pledge, "I will work to build a single nation of justice and opportunity." I know this is in our reach because we are guided by a power larger than ourselves who creates us equal in His image and we are confident in principles that unite and lead us onward.

America has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests and teach us what it means to be citizens. Every child must be taught these principles. Every citizen must uphold them; and every immigrant, by embracing these ideals, makes our country more, not less, American.

Today, we affirm a new commitment to live out our nation's promise through civility, courage, compassion and character. America, at its best, matches a commitment to principle with a concern for civility. A civil society demands from each of us good will and respect, fair dealing and forgiveness. Some seem to believe that our politics can afford to be petty because, in a time of peace, the stakes of our debates appear small. But the stakes for America are never small. If our country does not lead the cause of freedom, it will not be led. If we do not turn the hearts of children toward knowledge and character, we will lose their gifts and undermine their idealism. If we permit our economy to drift and

decline, the vulnerable will suffer most. We must live up to the calling we share. Civility is not a tactic or a sentiment. It is the determined choice of trust over cynicism, of community over chaos. This commitment, if we keep it, is a way to shared accomplishment.

America, at its best, is also courageous. Our national courage has been clear in times of depression and war, when defending common dangers defined our common good. Now we must choose if the example of our fathers and mothers will inspire us or condemn us. We must show courage in a time of blessing by confronting problems instead of passing them on to future generations.

Together, we will reclaim America's schools, before ignorance and apathy claim more young lives; we will reform Social Security and Medicare, sparing our children from struggles we have the power to prevent; we will reduce taxes, to recover the momentum of our economy and reward the effort and enterprise of working Americans; we will build our defenses beyond challenge, lest weakness invite challenge; and we will confront weapons of mass destruction, so that a new century is spared new horrors.

The enemies of liberty and our country should make no mistake, America remains engaged in the world by history and by choice, shaping a balance of power that favors freedom. We will defend our allies and our interests; we will show purpose without arrogance; we will meet aggression and bad faith with resolve and strength; and to all nations, we will speak for the values that gave our nation birth.

America, at its best, is compassionate. In the quiet of American conscience, we know that deep, persistent poverty is unworthy of our nation's promise. Whatever our views of its cause, we can agree that children at risk are not at fault. Abandonment and abuse are not acts of God, they are failures of love. The proliferation of prisons, however necessary, is no substitute for hope and order in our souls. Where there is suffering, there is duty. Americans in need are not strangers, they are citizens, not problems, but priorities, and all of us are diminished when any are hopeless. Government has great responsibilities for public safety and public health, for civil rights and common schools. Yet compassion is the work of a nation, not just a government. Some needs and hurts are so deep they will only respond to a mentor's touch or a pastor's prayer. Church and charity, synagogue and mosque lend our communities their humanity, and they will have an honored place in our plans and in our laws. Many in our country do not know the pain of poverty, but we can listen to those who do. I can pledge our nation to a goal, "When we see that wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not pass to the other side."

America, at its best, is a place where personal responsibility is valued and expected. Encouraging responsibility is not a search for scapegoats, it is a call to conscience. Though it requires sacrifice, it brings a deeper fulfillment. We find the fullness of life not only in options, but in commitments. We find that children and community are the commitments that set us free. Our public interest depends on private character, on civic duty and family bonds and basic fairness, on uncounted, unhonored acts of decency which give direction to our freedom. Sometimes in life we are called to do great things. But as a saint of our times has said, every day we are called to do small things with great love. The most important tasks of a democracy are done by everyone. I will live and lead by these principles, "to advance my convictions with civility, to pursue the public interest with courage, to speak for greater justice and compassion, to call for responsibility and try to live it as well." In all of these ways, I will bring the values of our history to the care of our times.

What you do is as important as anything government does. I ask you to seek a common good beyond your comfort; to defend needed reforms against easy attacks; to serve your nation, beginning with your neighbor. I ask you to be citizens. Citizens, not spectators; citizens, not subjects; responsible citizens, building communities of service and a nation of character.

Americans are generous and strong and decent, not because we believe in ourselves, but because we hold beliefs beyond ourselves. When this spirit of citizenship is missing, no government program can replace it. When this spirit is present, no wrong can stand against it.

After the Declaration of Independence was signed, Virginia statesman John Page wrote to Thomas Jefferson, "We know the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong. Do you not think an angel rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm?" Much time has passed since Jefferson arrived for his inauguration. The years and changes accumulate, but the themes of this day he would know, "our nation's grand story of courage and its simple dream of dignity."

We are not this story's author, who fills time and eternity with His purpose. Yet His purpose is achieved in our duty, and our duty is fulfilled in service to one another. Never tiring, never yielding, never finishing, we renew that purpose today; to make our country more just and generous; to affirm the dignity of our lives and every life.

This work continues. This story goes on. And an angel still rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm.

God bless you all, and God bless America.