

## DISASTER IN THE WORKPLACE

1) Your work with particle accelerators has been extremely promising. You think you're on the cusp of proving string theory, when you hear a strange sound. You turn around and realize you've accidentally opened a wormhole to a parallel universe. You're able to shut off the machine and close the wormhole, but not before *something* gets through. You only catch a glimpse of a long, spiked tail running out the door of the lab.

2) You have a reputation as a meticulous and professional computer programmer. You've been brought in as an independent code reviewer by one of the major software companies to lead a team to review some antiquated code. It's all pretty dull and routine, until a program you ran comes back with a disastrous revelation. The software, which has just been incorporated and activated by a major telecommunications company based in Baltimore, has an error in a single line of code that will cause the network centers to shut down one by one. This error is on the verge of cancelling airline reservations, stopping e-commerce, interfering with law enforcement communications – the implications are endless.

3) You've been making amazing advances in the field of genetics, when something goes horribly awry. An intern mislabeled the DNA samples, and you've produced four rat-wolverine hybrids. These wolverrats (ratverines?) are extremely aggressive and violent. When you arrive at the lab one morning, two of them are missing – a male and a female. Now, hordes of wolverrats are overtaking Baltimore, ferociously attacking people and animals at random.

4) You work in PR at Food Prep Inc. (fictitious) in Baltimore, who has a contract with the local government providing pizza for public school lunches. A video has just been posted on TikTok showing Food Prep Inc. employees doing disgusting and unsanitary things to pizza as it gets prepared for shipment. The time stamp reveals that the video was recorded ten days ago. They have uploaded it today as a form of misguided protest against their direct boss; it's gaining hundreds of viewers by the second. It's been posted to YouTube. The incident is starting to be discussed on Twitter and on a variety of other social media.

5) You've been reviewing the firm's recent projects for inspiration designing a proposal for a new hotel. Looking at the plans, you realize that an old project has a disturbing error. The curved angle of the building's façade (which was unique at the time & won a prize) appears to gather the sunshine in a focal point and beam it outward and down...in this case, into a children's playground across the way. The design has since been used in a number of projects.

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### INSTRUCTIONS

You must communicate the news to the following audiences (assume they have not yet heard anything about it):

- Brandon Scott, Mayor of Baltimore
- Diane, your boss
- Oswald, your friend and coworker who is on vacation
- Barnaby, your 8-year-old brother

**Choose two scenarios to respond to with your peer.** As a pair, write a communication to each person. You can choose – and defend – which mode of communication you use. Email? Memo? Text message?

While composing your messages, consider the following:

- purpose
- order in which you present information
- information/level of detail
- use of jargon
- word choice
- tone
- voice
- format/visual organization

These eight texts, co-composed, are due on Thursday, Oct. 18 at 11.59pm