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Prof. Grollmus

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**PERSPECTIVE ONE**

Boss or Friend, Maybe Both

By: Michael Scott

In response to receiving the manager of the quarter award, I thought I would extend to you my gratitude by explaining how I do my job so well.

One common misconception heard by all ABOUT WHAT? is the role of the “Boss”. What is the “Boss”? WHO is the “Boss”? Is He your friend? Do you bow to Him as the decider? The answer may be deceiving, but the answer is yes.

“Yes? What kind of answer is that? I didn’t ask a yes or no question!” Is probably what is going through your mind right now. But yes, yes you did ask a Yes or No question, because He is both your friend AND your leader. Although you may fear Him, He is also your shoulder to cry on when you can’t sleep at night, He is the one who has all the important answers. The best bosses are those that look at the hard decisions and think “how will my friends feel about that?” The best bosses are your friend and your boss. Jan was my friend and my boss and even my lover at one point. The romanticism and lust between us is what drove this company because we saw each other (and still do) as more than just someone who pays you.

I always get asked “Michael, how come you always seem to make the right decisions, but also are the coolest guy in the office?” and “How can I be like you? You seem to have it all!” and that’s because I do have it all. Not anyone can be a boss, especially a good boss. It’s hard to be liked like I am AND make the decisions I make. Being a good boss is like a natural instinct; it’s like a young me being able to pick girls up at the club. Or it’s like how Toby is so naturally gifted at making people hate him. It just comes naturally to us. A famous person once said “If you’re trying to be a good boss over and over again and keep failing, then give up.” And I hold myself to that.

Sincerely,

Michael Scott

**PERSPECTIVE TWO**

From: Jim Halpert

To: David Wallace

Subject: In Regard to Michael Scott

I know I’ve emailed you about this before, but things have been getting worse with Michael.

Take today, for example. Michael was trying to keep other employees from being concerned about the recent confusion created by corporate’s memo about the company’s financial well-being. While this wouldn’t be a problem for most, Michael put his typical Scott spin on things by interrupting work and forcing us to spend the entire day playing a trivia game about a murder in Savannah. To make matters worse, he refused to break character for any reason, and I really do mean any reason. In fact, Michael would refuse to talk to anyone who broke character or didn’t speak to him in a southern accent—even when they asked him an actual question about the days’ tasks or updates on the company.

I know you know Michael well, and as much as I love the guy there just should not be room for this in a co-manager position. Yes we want to keep the employees happy and content, but we also need to be able to know when to draw the line between work and play. Michael, unfortunately, does not know when to draw the line. Ever.

I hope I am not crossing the line myself by complaining to you about these issues, but I believe they are issues that must be dealt with if we are to come out of this financial situation with an upper hand.

Best Regards,

Jim Halpert

Writers Memo

For the audiences that I chose, I thought about who Michael would want to address knowing that he loves to talk about himself and how great of a man he was. I ultimately wrote his piece as a public memo for all of his employees to read. I decided to try to make it a little insensitive towards others’ feelings and to capitalize on his love for himself and his feeling of importance. I purposefully capitalized any He or Him as if he was a divine man. I wasn’t trying to make it feel religious, but to express his self-importance and the perception of himself as the man with the answers. I also wanted it to feel inappropriate by mentioning his personal relationships in public (his and Jan’s relationship), because he is pretty far from appropriate. I indented it how I did because I think memos are more of an inner indent, I also made it seem like he was TRYING to be intellectual, and whether he actually came off as intellectual and insightful is for you to decide (I don’t think so).

The other piece was written to Michael’s boss, David Wallace, from the speaker of Jim Halpert, his co-manager. I wrote his piece as an email to a figure higher up in command, so I tried to make it as formal as I could. Even when trying to express his own opinions, I made it sound as though he was only concerned for the company. I chose this genre because I wanted to portray Michael through another person’s eyes in the office in order to create a contrast between how he sees himself and how others actually see him, which is drastically different. That’s why I wanted to write an email “complaining” about Michael’s lack of understanding when it comes to being a leader, and how he thinks he’s an amazing boss (first piece).

For this assignment, it was hard for me to write as someone else and through someone else’s points of view, which I did through both Michael and Jim. I’m also not very good at using my imagination when it comes to writing so this helped me force myself to think of ideas, which I was surprised I actually thought of. I think I could definitely work on the execution and overall structure, but I do think I successfully wrote in the voices of Michael and Jim.

Nate:

I thought you did a GREAT job with this assignment. I love how you used the characters on The Office as your inspiration, then created a specific conflict/scenario in which to have them write things that expressed differing points of view and with different purposes in mind. You did a GREAT job of developing the voices of both Jim and Michael through your differing rhetorical choices and you also did a SOLID job of injecting the humor of the show into your work. The scenarios you developed were particularly well wrought. I also love how you captured Michael Scott’s inappropriate spirit by having him violate rules of the office memo genre (ie including personal information) in a way that made his convention violations funny rather than awkward. This was particularly sophisticated. Also, I like the way that after reading both pieces, you have a very good sense not only of these two characters, but also of the situation that convey from their respective points of view, which were so different (and funny in very different ways).

My edits were all Lower Order Concerns. For the most part, I was fixing wordier or clumsy phrases by making them more concise and direct. Usually, it was a matter of deleting a couple words or replacing them with a word or two that could more efficiently get the job done.

Thanks!