



Polished Priorities

Idea developed by Sigma Chi Fraternity
Modified by Mari Ann Callias, Ph.D.
Modified by Pi Beta Phi Fraternity

Fraternity Value: Honor and Respect

Suggested Facilitator: Vice President Fraternity Development and her committee

Goals:

Collegians will evaluate the priorities of both themselves and the chapter.
The chapter will decide on where ritual fits in their priorities.
The chapter will develop a plan on how to make ritual a priority.
Collegians will acknowledge, appreciate and preserve fraternity heritage.

Room Set Up/Materials Needed:

- This seminar activity works best if participants were grouped by their year in school. It's important to have a large enough space where the chapter can begin and end the seminar all together, but once grouped by class they may go into another room or space.
- Four ritual books (either meeting ritual, initiation or New Member ritual)
- Four items with Pi Beta Phi letters on them
- Four red solo cups (another type of plastic cup or bottle is acceptable)
- Flip chart paper or a board of some sort with writing utensils for each group
- Five copies of these seminar instructions, one for each small group facilitator.
- Each facilitator should have a watch or timer.

Getting Started

Talking points are indicated with a callout bullet (●). 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 (➔), and serve as hints you might find helpful when administering the material. Most importantly, have fun!

- ➔ Choose facilitators prior to hosting the seminar. Vice President Fraternity Development is suggested as the lead, and her committee members could be chosen as the group leaders. You will need five facilitators in total: a lead, one facilitator for seniors, one facilitator for juniors, one facilitator for sophomores and one facilitator for freshman (if applicable).



National Ritual Week is sponsored by Phi Mu Fraternity.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.phimu.org/nationalritualweek>



Instructions

- We started this week by celebrating International Badge Day. Hopefully you have noticed around campus and on social media all of the different Fraternities and Sororities who participated. International Badge Day is the start of a weekly celebration, National Ritual Celebration Week.
- Because of National Ritual Celebration Week, Pi Phi released a special *Leading with Values* seminar to help us celebrate. It's not often that we have a chance to step back and take a look at something that makes Pi Beta Phi unique amongst any other group or club: our ritual.

- What do you think of when you hear the word, "ritual?"
- Call on chapter members to respond. Some common answers may include initiation, chapter meeting, fraternity heritage, a set routine, etc.
- Why is ritual important?
- Call on chapter members to respond. Some common answers may include ritual is what sets us apart from other Panhellenic groups, ritual helps us remember our founders and what our founders envisioned, ritual can bring a certain tone to our chapter meetings, they may not know a reason, etc.
- We are going to see where you think ritual fits in at chapter name (e.g. Alaska Alpha). To make sure everyone has a chance to participate and share their ideas, we are going to split up in groups by class year.
- Split the chapter into four groups, and assign their facilitator. Make sure the facilitators agree on a time to meet back as a group. The suggested time to stay in the different groups is 30 minutes.
- Each group should have a ritual book, a lettered item and a red solo cup.
- As a group we said ritual is one of the main things that sets us apart from the other groups. Here, I have some symbols of things that can be seen as priorities in the chapter, whether that is conceived by us or someone on the outside looking in.
- Here is a ritual book. For this activity, it represents ritual and fraternity heritage in general. Here is an object with our Pi Beta Phi letters on it. This can represent our sisterhood, friendships and relationships with each other. Here is a red solo cup and it represents social events and parties. Would you agree that these three things can represent our chapter life overall?
- Give the members a chance to add anything else to the objects of priorities.
- We are going to put these in order a few different ways. First, can I have a volunteer put them in order of where these priorities currently stand in our chapter?
 - Let a few people do this. Talk about why they put them in this order.





● Now I'd like someone to come up and put them in the order that you would like them to be in our chapter.

➔ Let a few people do this. Talk about why they put them in this order. You can continue this exercise by adding the following ways that they can order the objects:

- If they are juniors or seniors, they can order them the way they were in the past compared to where they are now.
- They can order them in the way that they as an individual would like them to be compared to how the chapter would want them to be.
- They can order them in the way as a class how they would like to be.

➔ After at least 15 minutes of this discussion, come back and focus on the ritual aspect.

● Thank you for your honesty and participation in ordering them. Let's focus on where ritual landed in a lot of these topics.

➔ Based on the previous conversations, choose 3 or 4 of the following questions to ask the group.

● Why do you think ritual was prioritized how it was?

● What do most of our members believe Ritual is really about?

● What do you and the members of our chapter believe is the purpose of Ritual?

● Who is responsible to learn Ritual, know Ritual?

● Who is responsible to live Ritual?

● What is the difference between performing Ritual and practicing or living Ritual?

● How can Ritual be taught?

● What is the importance and meaning of the Ritual ceremonies?

● How do you live Ritual?

● How do you hold one another accountable by understanding and using the concepts found in the Ritual?



National Ritual Week is sponsored by Phi Mu Fraternity.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.phimu.org/nationalritualweek>



➔ Have the group order the items in a way that they want the entire chapter to see them. They must agree on one order.

● Now that we've discussed ritual in depth, we can better see where it fits within our priorities. We are going to order the objects one final time. As a class, decide on what you think the order of priorities should be for the entire chapter.

- ➔ Once they have agreed on an order, have them come up with at least five ways they can either make this happen, or make sure this continues to happen.
- As a group, how are we going to implement these priorities in the chapter?
- ➔ Utilize the flip chart paper or board to track the ideas the group comes up with. If ritual ranks high, maybe the group wants to sing more songs during chapter dinners, or maybe they can recite ritual at more chapter meetings.
- ➔ Once the group has come up with at least 5 steps, and the agreed group time is up, the facilitators should lead their group back to the large group setting.

Wrap Up

- Thank you all for participating in your small groups. To wrap this up, let's go over the order that each group prioritized their objects and share their 5 steps to help the chapter get there. Remember, there is no right or wrong order, and it's okay if the groups came up with different ideas. It is important to hear everyone out, and hopefully we can agree on ways to modify our priorities together.
- ➔ Have 1 or 2 representatives from each group explain their group process.
- Hopefully ritual played a large part in the conversation and thinking for each group. Continue to remember to make ritual a priority. Celebrate our ritual today, this week and forever!

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* web site, www.pibetaphi.org/leadingwithvalues, to fill out a quick survey. Remember, the name of this seminar is **"Polished Priorities."**
The chapter's Vice President of Member Development should remember to record the presentation of this program in the chapter's monthly regional report.

