

# 1.2 Make Your Own Story

**Duration:** 15-30 minutes

**Number of people who can take part:** At least 2 participants and, if needed, 1 adult reader; up to 6 participants maximum

**Learning objective:** learn basic labour and union vocabulary and about related concepts, including some of the benefits of organizing a workplace

**Materials needed:** story text printed in colour; 6 'bird beaks' printed in colour and folded

## Before your event:

Fold your 'bird beaks.' To learn how, watch this explanatory video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAZKv\\_PVcn0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAZKv_PVcn0)

## At your event:

There are a few ways you can run this activity at your event:

- Version 1: Read out the 'bird beak' prompts and move the 'bird beak' yourself, asking participants to choose each step's words and numbers. Define the words on the 'bird beaks' for your audience.
- Version 2: Have participants read out the 'bird beak' prompts and move the 'bird beaks' themselves, asking them to choose each step's words and numbers. Have participants try to define the words on the 'bird beaks' for the group.

## Facilitator Tips:

Before starting this activity, consider asking participants a few questions like:

- What do you know about the world of unions?
- What can you do if things aren't going well at work?

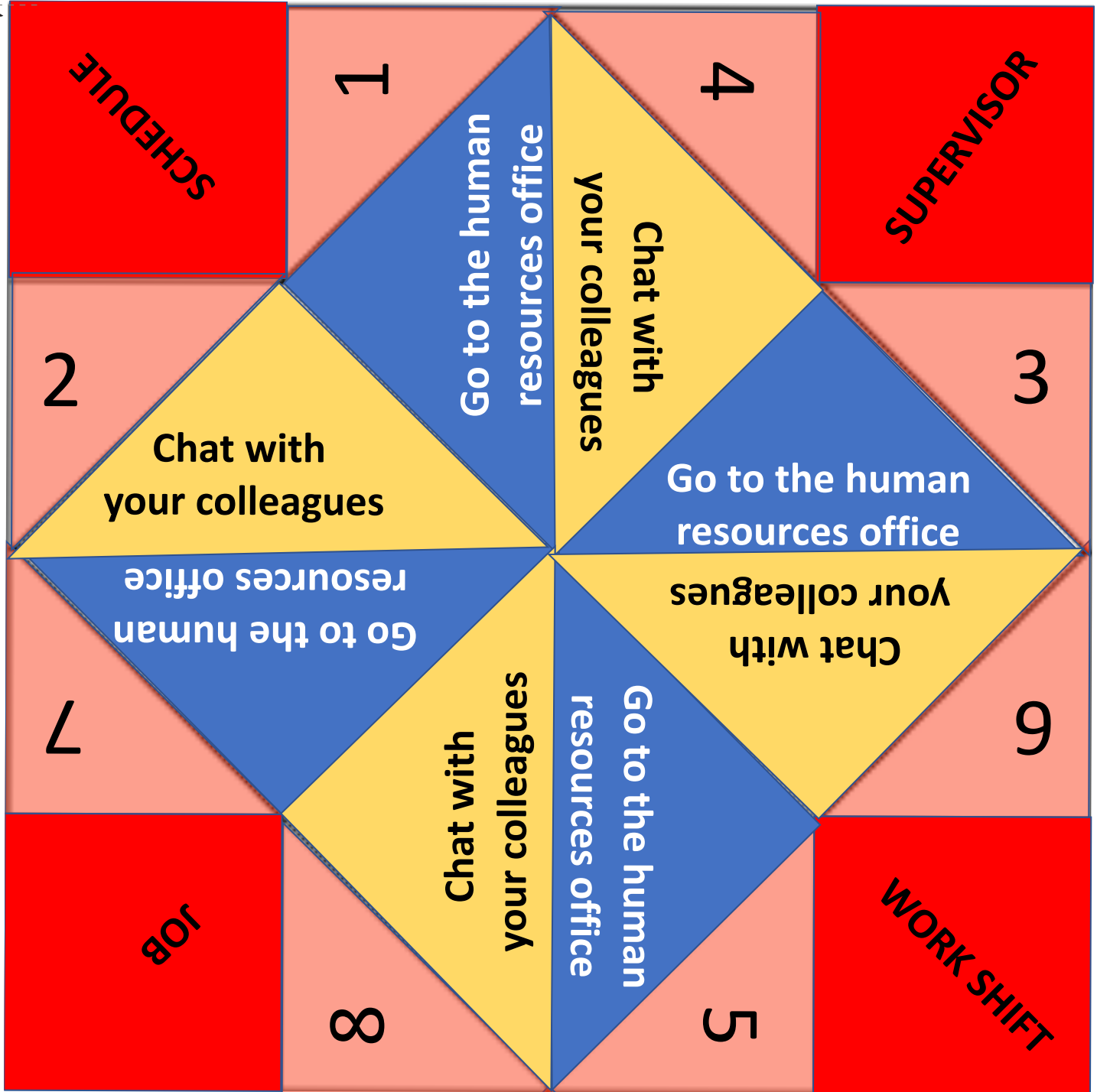
The purpose of these questions is to provoke listeners' thoughts, not to have them give the 'right' answers.

## Instructions

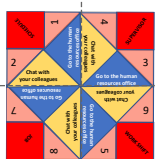
1. From the story sheet, read the text in red.
2. Holding the folded red bird's beak in your hand, ask participants to choose one of the words written on one of the red boxes.
3. Explain the meaning of this word, then spell the word using the motion shown at 1:27 in the 'bird beaks' explanatory Youtube video.
4. Ask participants to choose a number. Below the number, the next step in the story is revealed, as well as the color of the text you should read from the story sheet (blue or yellow) and the colour of the next 'bird beak' you should manipulate (blue or yellow).
5. Read the corresponding blue or yellow text from the story sheet.

6. Pick up the folded bird's beak of the corresponding color. Ask participants to choose a word.
7. Explain the meaning of this word, then spell the word using the motion shown at 1:27 in the 'bird beaks' explanatory Youtube video.
8. Ask participants to choose a number. Below the number, the next step in the story is revealed, as well as the color of the text you should read from the story sheet (green, orange, or purple) and the colour of the next 'bird beak' you should manipulate (green, orange, or purple).
9. Read the corresponding green, orange, or purple text from the story sheet.
10. Pick up the folded bird's beak of the corresponding color. Ask participants to choose a word.
11. Explain the meaning of this word, then spell the word using the motion shown at 1:27 in the 'bird beaks' explanatory Youtube video.
12. Ask participants to choose a number. Below the number, the end of the story is revealed.
13. Lead participants through a brief discussion on the story you read out, for example how things are sometimes not resolved the way we would like but we should keep trying and helping one another.

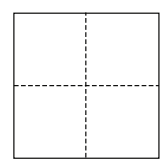
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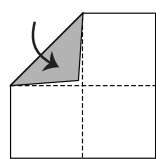
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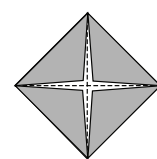
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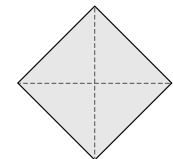
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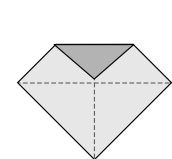
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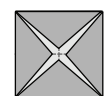
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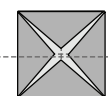
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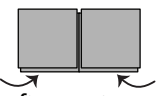
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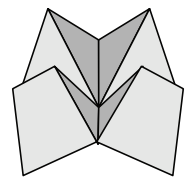


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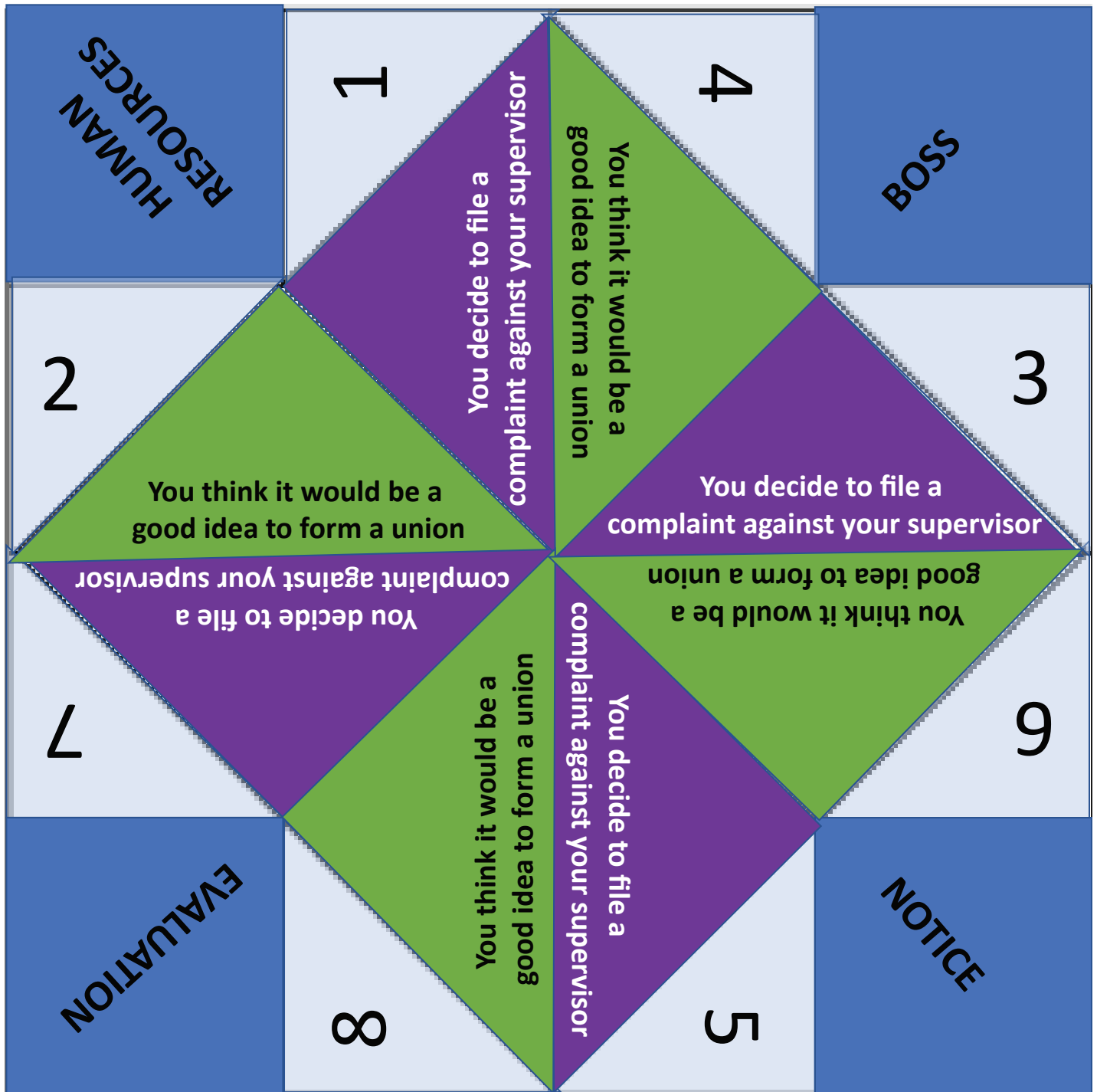


Push your fingers in and wiggle them to open up your bird beak.

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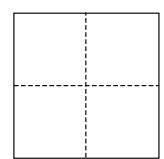
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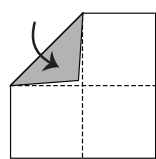
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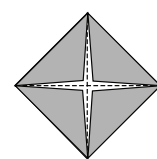
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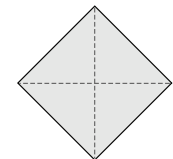
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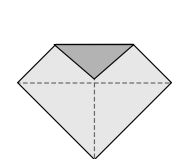
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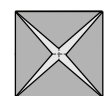
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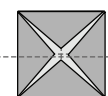
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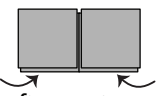
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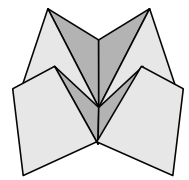


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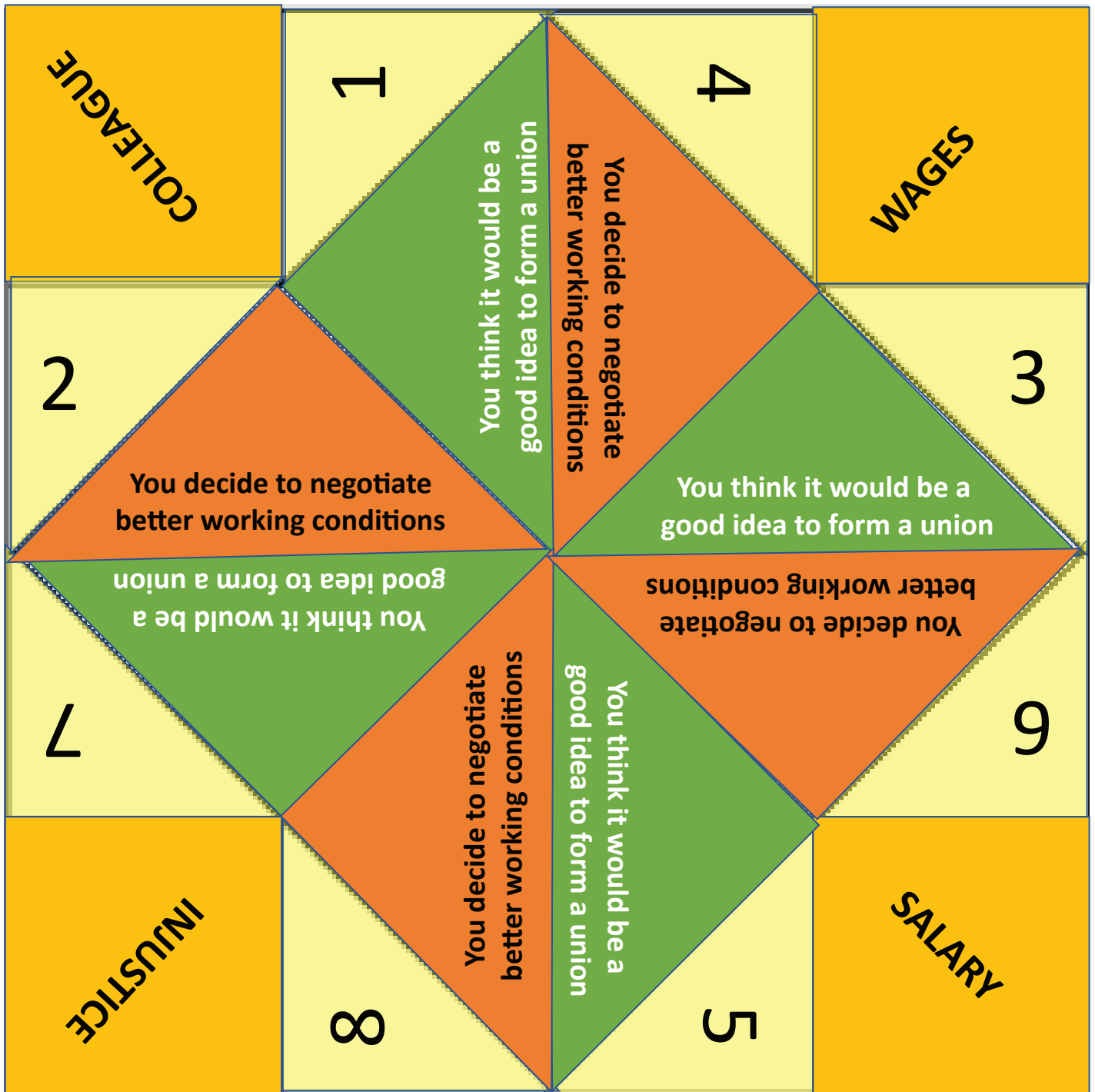


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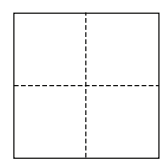
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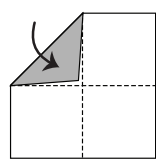
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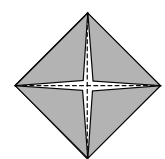
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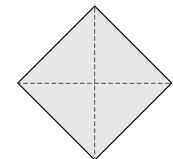
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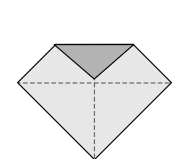
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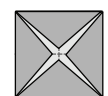
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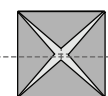
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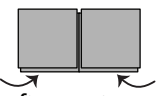
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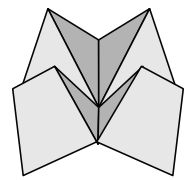


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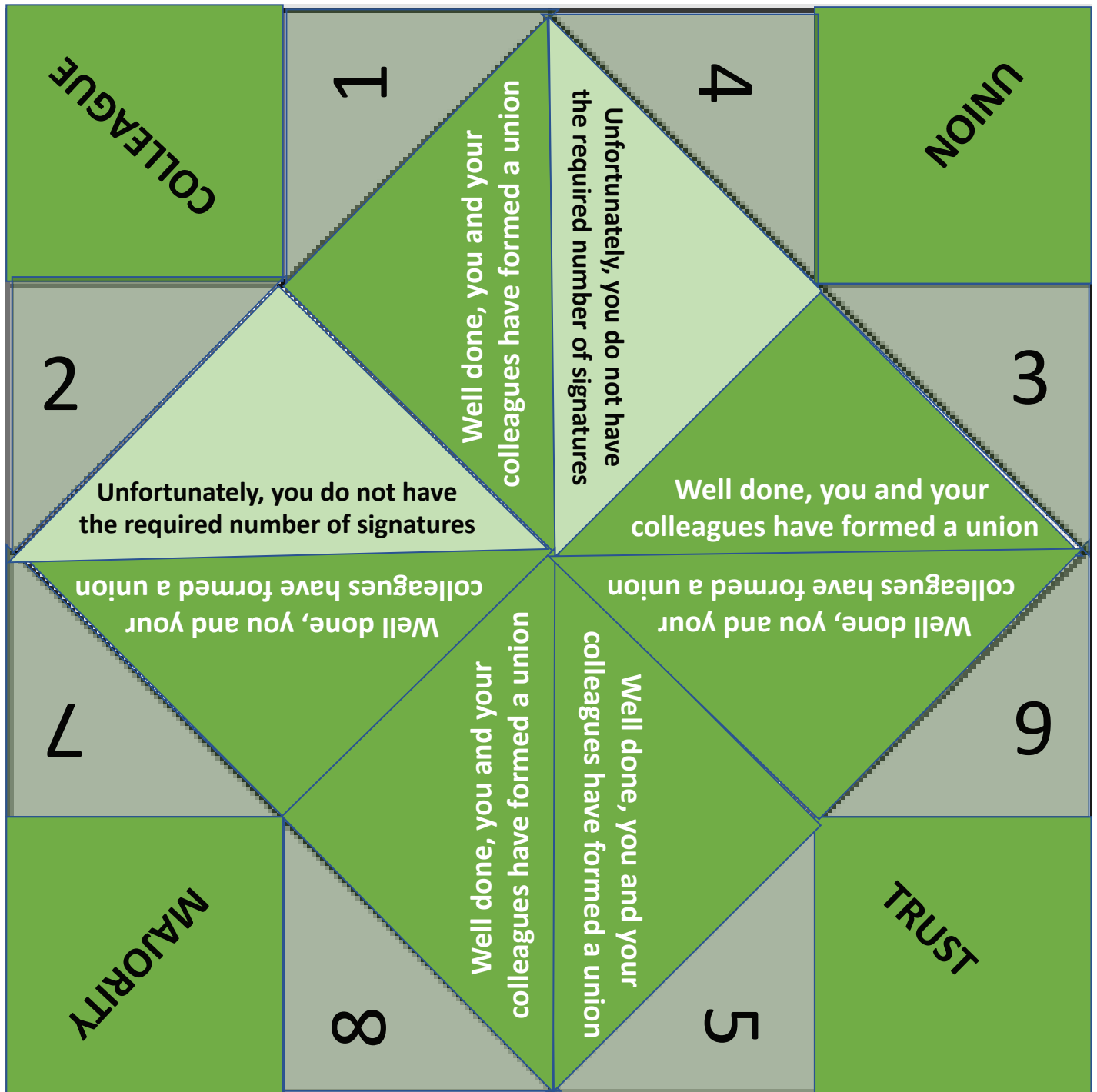


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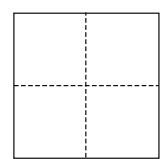
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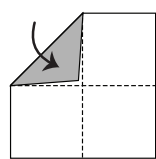
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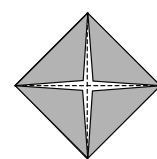
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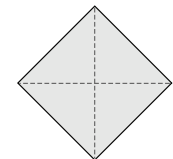
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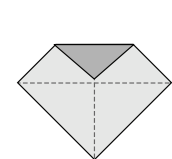
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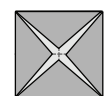
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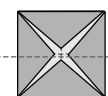
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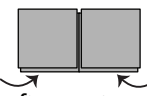
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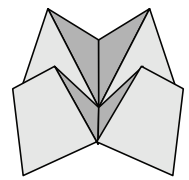


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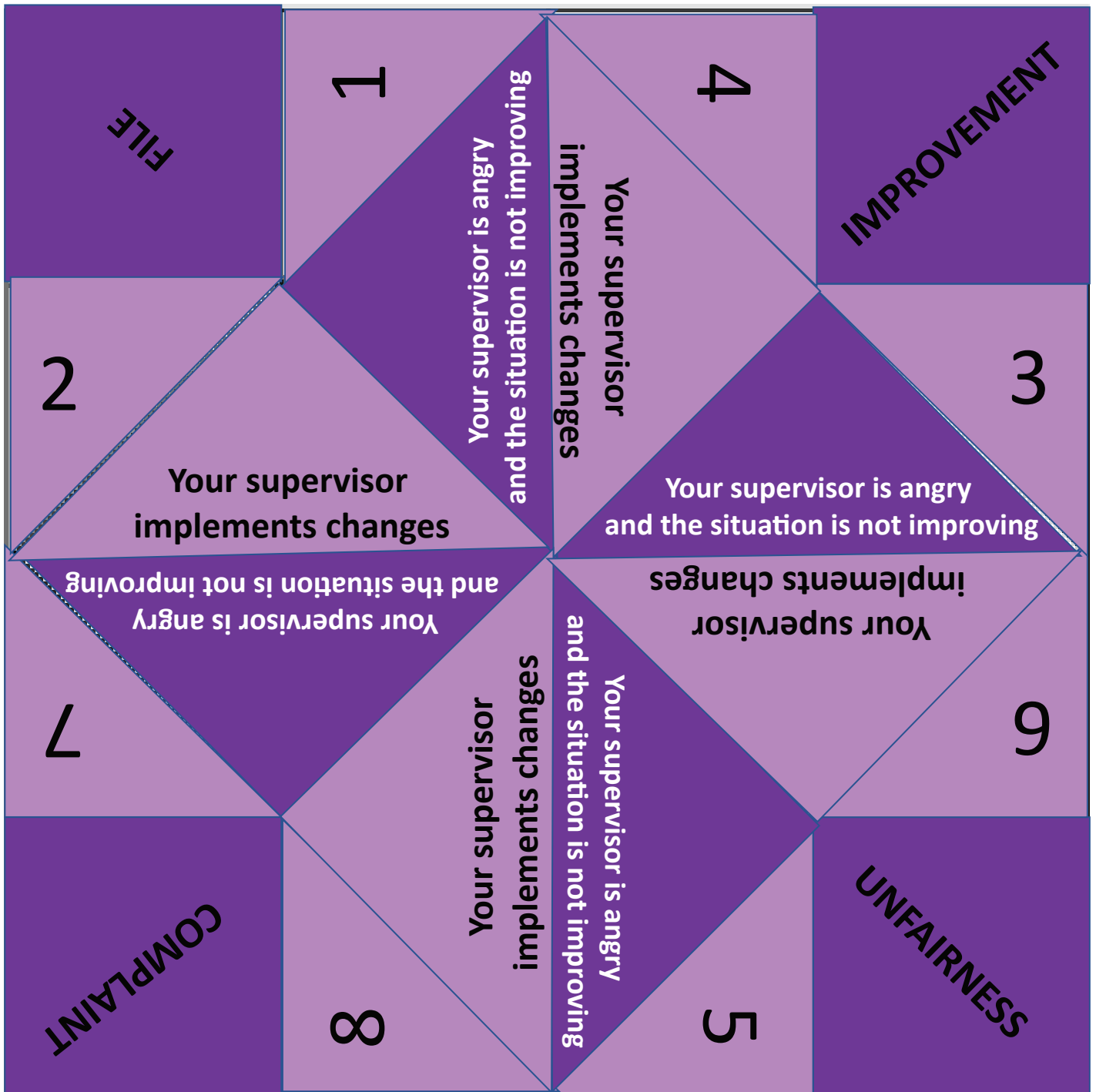


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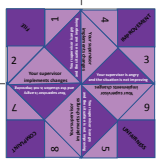
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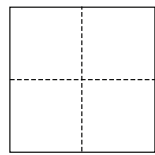
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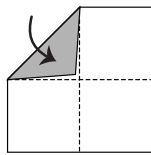
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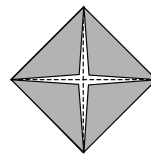
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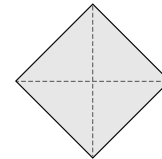
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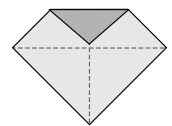
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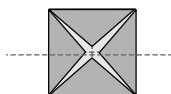
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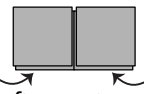
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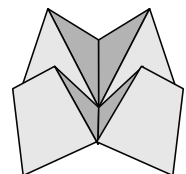


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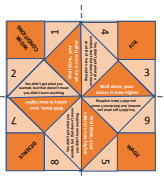
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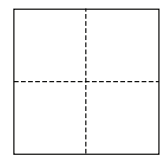
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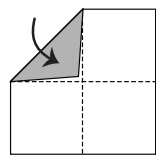
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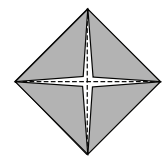
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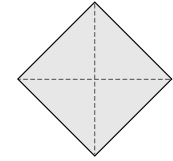
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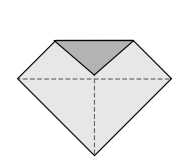
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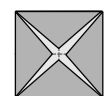
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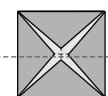
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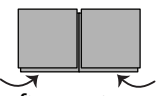
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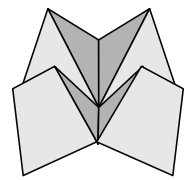


Fold in half.



Push your fingers in and wiggle them to open up your bird beak.

This is how it should look:





## 1.2.1 Bird Beak Stories

### Red bird's beak

On a sunny Wednesday, you head to work. You are happy with the good weather because you have planned to go camping on Saturday with your family. Once you get to work, you realize that the work schedule has changed. Now you must come to work on Saturday afternoon. You are very disappointed. It's unfair because your weekend camping plans are ruined! This happens a lot at work. You are frustrated with not being able to plan activities because your work schedule is constantly changing at the last minute.

Blue = Go to the human resources office

Yellow = Chat with your colleagues

### Blue bird's beak

So, you decide to go talk to a human resources representative at your job. Human Resources handles complaints and is there to support employees and bosses. The representative is surprised to learn that your supervisor changed your schedule without notice. She tells you that you have the right to refuse to work because you have not been notified of the change.

The following Monday when you show up for your regular shift, your supervisor informs you that he doesn't like that you complained to human resources. He says he is going to give you a very bad review.

Green = You think it would be a good idea to form a union

Violet = You decide to file a complaint against your supervisor

### Yellow bird's beak

You decide to talk to your colleagues, and you learn that many things in your workplace are not fair. For example, you learn that your colleagues do not all receive the same salary. Your friend Lin only gets paid \$100 per day while you are paid \$120 for the same time worked. Yet Lin does the same job as you and he was hired a few weeks before you. You ask Sylvain, another colleague, if he gets paid \$100 or \$120. A little embarrassed, Sylvain tells you that he is paid \$ 130 per day. This is unfair because you, Lin, and Sylvain are all doing the same job.

Green = You think it would be a good idea to form a union

Orange = You decide to negotiate better working conditions

## 1.2.1 Bird Beak Stories

### Green bird's beak

You decided to contact the United Steelworkers for help organizing your workplace. Following this discussion, you chat with a few trusted colleagues and come up with a list of changes to your workplace that you would like made.

After you've identified your workplace's key issues and built your organizing team, it's time to start talking to all of your colleagues. You need to prove that the majority of your colleagues agree with the idea of joining a union. This means you must ask your colleagues to sign union cards to show their support. Play the green bird's beak to find out if you have succeeded in forming a union with your colleagues.

#### Possible story endings:

Well done, you and your colleagues have formed a union  
Unfortunately, you do not have the required number of signatures

### Purple bird's beak

You become more and more dissatisfied with the unfairness that you notice at your work. Constantly changing hours and inequalities in pay bother you. You would like to improve your working conditions.  
You have completed a complaint form which is now in your immediate supervisor's file.

#### Possible story endings:

Your supervisor implements changes  
Your supervisor is angry and the situation is not improving

### Orange bird's beak

You decide to try to improve your working conditions. Mainly, you would like to be paid \$130 per day like Sylvain. You prepare a file for human resources to demonstrate why you deserve the same pay as Sylvain. You say that for the same job, all employees should make the same salary.

#### Possible story endings:

Well done, your salary is now higher  
You didn't get what you wanted, but that doesn't mean you didn't learn anything