Room to Cooperate

How competition and group bias shape conflict

P.7.5 "Discuss the various types of conflict, including ingroup and outgroup bias, and the processes involved in conflict resolution (realistic conflict theory)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the limited resource and the two kinds of conflict it creates. Circle each complete quoted statement so you can compare how the speakers judge the groups.

One Room, Two Clubs

1. On Thursdays, the school auditorium is the only place large enough for both drama rehearsals and robotics test runs. Two weeks before the spring showcase, both clubs request it from 3:30 to 5:00. A programmer and an actor first argue about moving a cart, an interpersonal conflict between two people. Soon their clubs argue over the entire room, an intergroup conflict. Neither club can fully prepare there at the same time: moving robots can interrupt dialogue, and stage props can block robot paths. Realistic conflict theory explains why competition over a limited resource can intensify tension between groups.

2. As the argument spreads, a robotics member says, "Drama students never compromise." A drama member replies, "Our drama team always compromises." Ingroup bias means favoring your own group without enough evidence. Outgroup bias means judging another group negatively without enough evidence. Neither quote proves how every student actually behaves. During lunch, some club members begin sitting only with their teammates and dismissing the other club's requests. The shared room remains the practical problem, but broad judgments now make a fair conversation harder.

3. A faculty adviser asks each club to explain what it needs rather than accuse the other. They agree that both want a successful showcase, a shared goal that neither club can meet if the event is canceled. Together they test a schedule: robotics uses the room first while drama practices lines elsewhere, then drama rehearses onstage while robotics checks code in a classroom. They reserve fifteen minutes for a joint safety check and agree to revisit the plan after one week. This process does not erase every stereotype, but it reduces competition and gives both clubs a reason to cooperate.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the auditorium dispute illustrate realistic conflict theory?

2. Which quoted statement shows ingroup bias, and which shows outgroup bias? Explain your choices.

3. How does the first argument differ from the conflict that follows it?

4. Identify two steps the clubs take to resolve the conflict. How does their shared goal support those steps?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a conflict between two groups over a limited resource other than an auditorium. In 5 to 6 sentences, include one biased claim, identify the bias, and propose a cooperative plan with a shared goal.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the limited resource and the two kinds of conflict it creates. Circle each complete quoted statement so you can compare how the speakers judge the groups. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the auditorium dispute illustrate realistic conflict theory?	**Both clubs need the same limited room at the same time. Competition for it increases tension between them.**
2	Which quoted statement shows ingroup bias, and which shows outgroup bias? Explain your choices.	**The drama member's claim favors the speaker's own group, so it shows ingroup bias. The robotics member's claim judges the other group negatively, so it shows outgroup bias.**
3	How does the first argument differ from the conflict that follows it?	**The argument about the cart is between two people. The later dispute over the auditorium is between their two clubs.**
4	Identify two steps the clubs take to resolve the conflict. How does their shared goal support those steps?	**They explain their needs and test a schedule, with a joint safety check and a plan to review it. Wanting a successful showcase gives both clubs a reason to cooperate.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Two neighborhood garden groups both need water from a single rain barrel during a dry week. A member of the east garden claims that west gardeners never conserve water. This is outgroup bias because the speaker judges the other group without evidence about every member. Both groups want healthy plants without wasting water, so they agree to measure each garden's needs and divide the stored water accordingly. They also install mulch together and review the plan after a week.

Accept other accurate explanations of interpersonal and intergroup conflict or of the two biases. For Part 3, look for a limited resource, a correctly identified biased claim, and a plan that gives both groups a role in reaching a shared goal.