**THE PLAY DISPUTE** (Secondary School Students)

Charlie and Kim are in the same Drama class. For one of their internal assessments the class has been split into groups. Each group must choose and perform a short play. Charlie and Kim are in the same group where Charlie has the lead role and Kim is the director. During rehearsal Charlie has been doing a lot of improvisation and Kim wants him to stick to the script. They have been continuously arguing over how it should be done and the rest of the group has asked that they go to mediation.

**Kim’s information**

It is your first time as director and you really want to do a good job. You think this might be something you wish to pursue after high school so for you it is more than just an assessment, it is a chance to really try your hand at directing.

The play your group as chosen is by your favourite playwright. When Charlie starts to improvise you find it disruptive to the other group members as they often lose their place and you find it insulting to the play itself. It is already perfect and should not be meddled with! You find it arrogant that Charlie thinks that his on-the-spot lines are superior to the carefully chosen words of a playwright genius.

You also feel that it undermines the rehearsal process and Charlie’s improvisation changes every time. You never know what to expect and you do not feel comfortable with that kind of uncertainty, especially not for the main performance. What if he says something completely off and it ruins the play and everyone’s hard work.

Most importantly, you feel that his improvisation is a direct sign of disrespect of you as director. Every time you have asked him to stick to the lines, he responds with “yeah sure” and then improvises again at the next rehearsal. You don’t even feel like he cares about drama, you feel like he is just doing it to undermine you.

**Charlie’s information**

You dream of becoming an actor. You have been going along to improvisation performances and have been blown away by the actors quick ability to come up with witty lines and their ability to add their own flair. This play is a great opportunity to practice! It is small and just for one of the internal assessments so it is not a big deal. But getting to practice improvisation is an invaluable opportunity.

The language of the script is outdated anyway and is benefitting from a bit of spicing up. You feel you are not only adding a bit of colour but also making it more relevant and accessible to a modern audience. You feel annoyed that Kim keeps telling you to stay with the script and feel that he doesn’t understand that acting is a dynamic and creative process.

You would be happy to talk to him about certain specifics that you would like to change a bit but you don’t feel that he would be willing to listen. You feel that he is running a dictatorship as director and not allowing it to be collaborate process. You don’t see why he should have monopoly on deciding what the play should be like.

He has asked you to stop the improvisation and you’ve just said “yeah sure” because you don’t really like conflict and you don’t feel he would be willing to listen to you even if you tried talking to him.