



Ritual Jenga

This activity can be done at a community/organization retreat, for a chapter, or at a smaller more specific workshop.

Supplies:

- Paper
- Pens
- Jenga game
- Markers to write on Jenga blocks

Instructions:

- Ask members to identify what makes fraternities/sororities different than any other organization on campus? (Answer: Values- Based Organizations)
- Ask members where they learn the values of their organization? (Answer: Creeds, Mission/Values Statements, Symphony, Ritual Ceremonies, etc.)
- Ask each member to take a moment to write down the values of their organization. As they are doing this walk around and give each participant a Jenga block (if the group is too large for this, then just randomly select several participants and give them a block).
- Ask the members with the blocks to write one or two of the values of their organization on the block and then have them each bring their blocks to the front of the room and stack them (like you are about to begin the Jenga game).
- Once the Jenga blocks are stacked and ready to “begin play,” make the point to the members that the values of our organization(s) that we are taught through our Ritual are what make us who we are as an organization and serve as the foundation that holds the entire organization together. A chapter should always look strong, tall and stable like this tower looks right now. As we all know, sometimes we do not always let the values of our organization guide our actions or decisions as individuals or an organization.
- Ask members to share behaviors/actions that they know occur in their organization/community that are *inconsistent* to their organization values. For

each person who shares, ask them to come forward, share the behavior/action and then remove one of the blocks. Continue until the tower falls.

Processing Questions:

- What happened as we removed various value blocks from the tower?
- How did it make you feel as you heard the reasons for the blocks to be removed?
- When are we responsible for living the values of our organization?
- What specific changes need to happen within your own chapter to help keep the foundation from crumbling?

Make the point that each member of a fraternity/sorority WILLINGLY took an oath during their initiation that they would personally uphold the standards and values of their organization on all occasions. Therefore, as fraternity/sorority members we have pledged to strive to be better men and women and we cannot pick and choose when we want to live our values and when we do not. We must LIVE the values we took oaths to live and not only that, we must hold one another accountable for doing so as well.

In order of our organizations to stand tall and strong, and to truly be who we say we are, we cannot plan events or allow behaviors that take away from who we are- if we do we are at risk of making our foundation wobbly and eventually leading the collapse of our chapter.

** To make this an ongoing activity within your chapter, do part 1, keep the Jenga tower in your house/meeting space and each week anytime something is done inconsistent with your organization values, pull out a block. This will serve as a good visual check throughout the semester/year of how your chapter is doing with living the Ritual! **

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