



LITERACY FACTS IN ACTION

FRATERNITY VALUE: PHILANTHROPIC SERVICE TO OTHERS

SUGGESTED FACILITATOR: DIRECTOR SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY

Goals:

- Participants will engage in a conversation about the challenges facing students who are unable to read.
- Participants will demonstrate what the statistic “One in four children will grow up functionally illiterate.”
- Participants will build commitment to the Read > Lead > Achieve® mission.

Room setup/materials needed:

- Download the Literacy Fact Cards PDF (set of 16 cards), print, cut and fold
- Poster board or flip chart with a marker for recording answers.
- A screen for showing “The Story of One” video (TV, projector, etc.) Test your equipment before the seminar.

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!

Instructions

- Print the cards double sided, and make sure they flip on the short side so all text is right side up. Cut the cards along the lines, and fold each in half so the numbered side covers the text.
- Before starting, distribute the cards to 16 volunteers. Tell your volunteers to not open and read the cards until they are called on in numerical order.
 - ☛ Today I've asked volunteers to share facts about literacy with us. As you know Philanthropic Service to Others is one of Pi Phi's core values, and Read > Lead > Achieve is Pi Phi's philanthropy. Why is literacy such an important mission? Listen carefully as the volunteers read through the facts and statistics about literacy in the United States.
- Ask each volunteer to stand and read her card in number order. Every fourth card is in a foreign language, so that woman will (probably) be unable to read it.
- When a volunteer is unable to read her card, assure her that it's okay! She may sit down, and you can move to the next card. Members may comment about the facts they hear or try to figure out what language the card is in. Encourage the sharing of experiences, thoughts, feelings, etc. The important thing to observe is they are unable to read the card. Once all the cards have been read through, remind the group of the first literacy fact: one in four children will grow up functionally illiterate. You can use the following questions to facilitate discussion.
 - ☛ For those of you who were unable to read your cards, how did you feel?

- How do you think children, or even adults, feel when they encounter something they can't read, especially in a public setting?
- Imagine what it must feel like to be called on in class, but you are not able to read as well as your classmates or not able to read at all. How might you react?

➤ Record the adjectives the members come up with on a poster board or flip chart. They may also share personal stories where they have encountered a similar situation.

- What do you think it's like for teachers to have a classroom in which 25 percent of their students struggle with reading at grade level?
- What can Pi Phi do to help?

➤ Record answers on a poster board or flip chart. Members may answer: Champions are Readers®, Local Impact Grants, Fraternity Day of Service, FDS500 Grants and other local philanthropic efforts.

- One way we further our literacy efforts is through The Story of One, which encourages individuals to help Pi Beta Phi promote reading to one child, one moment at a time.

➤ Watch the "Story of One" video as a group. Use your discretion if your chapter has already seen this video. You may only need to reference it.

Final Wrap-Up

➤ After participants have finished taking their seminar notes on their handouts, lead the group in the final wrap-up.

- You've now gotten a real life perspective on the fact that one in ever four children grow up not knowing how to read. Hopefully this will impact us to further support our philanthropy and understand its importance.

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*® website, www.pibetaphi.org/leadingwithvalues, to fill out a quick survey. Remember, the name of this seminar is **Literacy Facts in Action!**

The chapter's Vice President Member Experience should remember to record the presentation of this program in the chapter's monthly regional report.