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# Examples: Four Options Model

Following are some examples of how I would interpret the model in relation to some conflict situations or decision-making situations. The statements are labeled with capital letters and the key to my interpretations is at the end of the examples. Try it out and see if you are interpreting the "Four Response Options Model" in the same way I am.

- A. A boss says to an employee, do it my way or you will be fired. If the employee needs the job they may feel they have no choice and decide that they have to go along.
  - B. Two farmers disagree about the location of boundary between their farms. They hire a surveyor to determine the boundary for them.
  - C. Two young students have a conflict about who should be next to get to swing on the school swings. An older student helps them talk and think about it and the two young students finally come to a decision they both agree on for how to solve the problem.
  - D. Two friends have decided to go to a movie but they each want to see a different movie. After some discussion they decide together that they will go see Movie A this weekend and Movie B the next weekend. When asked by a third friend, they both say they think this is a good plan.
  - E. Two astronomy club members are given a budget and assigned a task of purchasing a telescope. But, they disagree over which one to buy. They talk to the professor at the local University and let him decide for them, which is the best telescope for the club.
  - F. Two friends cannot agree on where they want to go together to eat and one leaves and says, call me tomorrow.
  - G. Two former business partners have a conflict about how the money left over after the dissolution of their partnership should be distributed. They ask a common friend to join them for a meeting to help them talk about it. Finally the two of them decide on what they agree is a fair and friendly way to make the distribution.
  - H. A child has run into the street and is in danger of being hit by a car and an adult upon seeing the danger, grabs the child and drags him to safety.
  - I. Two students who are creating a poster together disagree on the spelling of a word. They look it up in a dictionary and allow the spelling in the dictionary to determine how they spell it.
  - J. Business partners in a printing business have decided to expand their business and they have looked at a number of presses that will meet their specifications. When they each state their preference they find that they want different presses. The one has primary responsibility for the production and the other for sales. So they agree that it would be best to purchase the one preferred by the one responsible for production.
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- K. A man holds a gun to another man's head and demands that he give up his wallet. The person gives up the wallet.
  - L. A police officer arrests and takes into custody a man who has been driving extremely fast and erratically and who has failed to pass the sobriety test.
  - M. Spouses want to go away for the weekend but one wants to leave on Friday night and the other Saturday afternoon. After some discussion about why they want to leave at the times they first suggested, they agreed it would be best to leave Saturday morning.
  - N. A country is threatening to take military action against another country and says that the "gun is cocked" and it is just a matter of time. A person respected by both sides meets with the leaders of both countries and helps them work out several agreements on a number of conflictive issues and they avoid the military action.
  - O. In an informal soccer game, two players disagree about whether the ball is in or out when it hits the line. They look it up in the rulebook and follow the rules.
  - P. Parents and their teenage daughter are arguing over what time she has to be in. They listen to each other's concerns and search for some way of resolving it that all can agree on and eventually they find a somewhat complex and mutually agreeable solution.
  - Q. A boy breaks a window in a neighbors house. Because of the incident, neighbors who were once friends are no longer talking to each other. A third neighbor invites boy and his family and the neighbors whose window was broken to his home and helps them talk about what happened decide how to make things right between them.

Key: A - #1, B - #2, C - #3, D - #4, E - #2, F - #1, G - #3, H - #1, I - #2, J - #4, K - #1, L - #1, M - #4, N - #3, O - #2, P - #4, Q - #3

What all of the #1 examples have in common is that one had the ability to control the situation and the other either had no choice or felt they had to go along.

What all of the #2 examples have in common is that they all have an outside criteria or person making the decision or determining the course of action.

What all of the #3 examples have in common is that the persons in conflict, with the help of an outside party, finally arrive at a decision or course of action which they mutually agree on.

What all of the #4 examples have in common is that the persons in conflict, without the help of an outside party, finally arrive at a decision or course of action which they mutually agree on.