A National Connection for Self-Advocates

Green Mountain Self-Advocates and SARTAC www.selfadvocacyinfo.org
Today's Topic

May 26 Meeting
Leadership Training

We will hear from the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance and Speaking Up for Us of Maine and other states.
Leadership is NOT like acting. For example, think about 2 actors in a TV show they have a script. It tells them what to say. First she says this and then he says that.

Leadership is NOT like acting. **Leadership is more like improv.** You do not have a script. You do not have an exact plan of what to say or do. You listen to others. Then you respond. Go find improv – because it is like leadership.
Good leaders really need to be good listeners. One thing that can get in the way of listening is when we judge the person we are talking to. This exercise shows us how easy it is to judge someone.

Who drives this car? What kind of person drives this car?
Who drives this car?
What kind of person drives this car?
Who drives this car?
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Who drives this car?
What kind of person drives this car?
Who drives this car? What kind of person drives this car?
Okay, thanks for doing our ice breaker. So you can see how easy it is for us to make assumptions about a person. Our brain just does it out of habit. So to think clearly, to have an open mind about a person we need to always make sure we are listening to what they have to say. Be careful - make sure you are not jumping to conclusions - deciding ahead of time what this person is all about. Be open.
Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

https://selfadvocacyalliance.org/
- Often our view of a situation is incomplete - we do not know everything that is going on. Okay - let's give these people the benefit of the doubt - What are some other reasons why these people do not walk off the escalator? Use your imagination - what else could be going on?
- Like in this video – there are other things going on that they know about that we can’t see. As leaders, we need to keep in mind to ask, "What else could be going on in this situation?"
• Sometimes when we are leaders we think we know everything that other people are thinking. When the truth is, something else could be going on that we don't know about.

• Remember to take a step back and take the time to listen and learn more about the person and their situation. When we take time to listen and learn we create an atmosphere where people feel more comfortable being themselves. Making too many assumptions about a person can put the person on guard - they may be reluctant to express themselves.