

Girl Goodwill

Success & Equality Step 2

Focus on what you have in common with other women.

For more than two years, I was part of a work group for a company with several offices throughout the state. I worked with different people in the group during the week. My favorite work partner was the woman with whom I shared interesting conversations. Close to two years in, another woman joined our work group. I worked with her separately from my conversation partner. The new employee and I got along well and had a lot of fun together. Unfortunately, my relationship with my conversation partner soured. I did not know why.

Too late, I discovered that the new employee was telling lies about me. My conversation partner believed the lies and, in turn, told lies about me to get me fired. The lies worked. I was fired.

The company did not do anything close to a real investigation. The day the company fired me, I discovered that my supervisor had lied about me as well. Because my regional director had ignored my side of the story, I wrote letters to two of her superiors with evidence proving I had not done what my coworker or supervisor accused me of doing.

I wrote a separate letter to my former conversation partner with that evidence. I told her that the problem with lies is that the liar can never be sure which details matter to the victim of their lies. I also gave her information to help her with health problems. One health problem was insomnia. After being fired, I discovered that magnesium improves sleep. I even found a comment online from a man who said his doctor described magnesium as a "sleeping pill". I tried magnesium for my own insomnia and my sleep improved dramatically.

Instead of writing insults and threats to my former conversation partner, I focused on our common problem of insomnia. That focus proved three things:

1. Actions should speak louder than words – I repeatedly gave my conversation partner information that could be useful to her.
2. Taking action without listening to the other side of the story can backfire.
3. Telling lies can backfire.

Together, the letters satisfied my need to bring some justice to myself. And I brought justice to myself in a way that allows me to hold my head high. I doubt if anything further will come of this, but if it does, neither my coworker nor the company can ever claim that I acted badly after the accusations and firing.

My former conversation partner never wrote back to protest her innocence. I take that as an admission of guilt, which also satisfies me. By acting with girl goodwill toward my former conversation partner, I created a positive ending for myself.

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For more information see the Girl Goodwill page at speakingfromtriumph.com