

Explanation: I'd like to talk to you about a problem or conflict you had with a roommate any time over the past year or so. Could we start with some basic information about the situation?

**Demographics:**

1. Did you share a dorm room, suite, apartment, house? (circle one)  
-- total number of bedrooms:

2. Information on those living together or directly involved in the situation:

|            | You | Roommate | Others |
|------------|-----|----------|--------|
| First name |     |          |        |
| Age        |     |          |        |
| Gender     |     |          |        |
| Race       |     |          |        |

3. Background: You might start by talking about how you knew this person and decided to room together.

- Did you know this roommate before s/he moved in? how? how long? etc.
- What were your reactions on first moving into the apt with this person?
- Did you discuss "ground rules" when you first moved into together? if so, what were these rules?

4. Problems: Now let's turn to the problems you had with this roommate. Would you tell me about what happened in this situation in your own words? It would help if you would start at the beginning and go describe what happened step-by-step until the end.

-- what do you consider the **major problem** you had with this roommate? Would you please take me through step-by-step through the history and development of this problem?

- How did a problem first develop?
- How did you try to deal with this situation?

your roommate's responses to these measures, your personal reactions and feelings as all this was going on.

- Did you ever talked directly with your roommate about the problem? (if yes, how did you approach it? what happened?)
- Did this situation lead to a memorable "major incident," heated confrontation, or "last straw"? If so, describe what happened and how you felt about it.

-- Did you have any **other problems/troubles** with this roommate?

- what did these problems involved?
- what did you do to try to deal with these problems?

5. Beginnings: I am particularly interested in how you first became aware of the problem and in any changes over time in your understanding or interpretation of the problem, and in your sense of how and why it developed. It would really help if you could describe these matters with as much detail as you can recall.

-- Thinking back, what was your first indication that there might be a problem, that something might be wrong? Please take me through step-by-step what happened here.

-- Over the course of this roommate situation was there any change in how you saw the nature or cause of the problem?

-- At any point were you uncertain that there really was a problem, or just what the problem might be? (Explain)

-- In thinking about this situation, did you ever entertain different "hypotheses" about what might be going on? Ie, it might be X, it might be Y? If so, what were these? Did you ever resolve these differences? How?

-- At any time did you feel that the problem might be that you yourself were overly worried or upset about this matter, that the core of the problem might be simply your personality?

-- For a moment try to put yourself in the position of your roommate. How do you think s/he understood the problem as it developed?

#### 6. Talking to Others:

-- Did you ever talk to your other roommates about the situation and what to do?  
-- when?

-- what did you say?

-- how did they react?

-- Did you ever talk informally to friends, family, etc. about the situation?

-- who?

-- how did they react?

-- what did they advise?

-- Have you ever thought about talking to your RA, apartment manager or landlord about this problem?

-- Have you actually done so? What happened?

-- Have you ever thought about calling the police or some other official about this problem? (who? when?) Have you ever actually done so? Has your roommate? (what happened?)

#### 7. Emotional Reactions:

-- How did you react emotionally to this situation as it developed?

-- Have you ever been upset or angry about the problem?

-- did your roommate ever do or say something you felt was the "last straw"? describe what happened then

-- Has the problem affected how your everyday routines in and around your home? -- Has the problem affected you at work and/or school?

-- Have you ever felt there is no way out, that the situation is hopeless and you can't do anything about it?

-- Have you ever thought about moving because of the situation?

-- did you ever consider taking any other drastic steps?

#### 8. Looking Back:

-- based on this experience, what advice would you give someone about to move in with a new roommate?

-- as you think back on this situation, what do you think was the basic cause of this problem?

-- does this differ from how you understood the cause of the problem when you were in the middle of it?

Thank you!