

Discuss the corporate clichés. What do they really say about a workplace?



"We hustle 24/7."

Clash: "I value work-life balance and my time outside of work."

"We wear many hats here."

Clash: "I want a clear role with defined responsibilities, not constant role-shifting."

"We thrive in chaos."

Clash: "I prefer structure and organized workflows to do my best work."

"We need team players."

Clash: "I'm collaborative, but I also need space to focus and work independently."

"We don't watch the clock here."

Clash: "I believe in setting healthy boundaries and honoring time commitments."

"Failure is not an option."

Clash: "I believe failure is a necessary part of learning and innovation."

"We're all like family."

Clash: "I want a respectful and professional environment — not blurred lines or emotional pressure."

"We go above and beyond."

Clash: "I give my best, but I also don't want overwork to be the norm."

VOCABULARY



1. Compensation
2. Tough luck
3. Mental health day
4. Trade
5. Talent
6. Office committee
7. Ulterior motive
8. Morale
9. Subjective opinion
10. Mind game

- A. A viewpoint or judgment based on personal feelings rather than on objective facts or evidence.
- B. Individuals who possess valuable skills, capabilities, and qualities that contribute to the success of an organization.
- C. A group of employees who voluntarily undertake specific tasks or projects that benefit the workplace.
- D. A day taken off work to focus on one's emotional and psychological well-being.
- E. Refers to specialized skills or professions that require specific training or education, such as electricians or plumbers.
- F. A hidden reason or agenda behind someone's actions that may not be immediately apparent.
- G. Psychological tactics used to manipulate or influence someone's thoughts.
- H. An expression used to show sympathy for someone's misfortune, often with irony.
- I. The total rewards, including salary and benefits, that an employee receives.
- J. The overall mood, attitude, or spirit within a group or organization.

1.

ARTICLE

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<https://betterclass.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Six-Corporate-Red-Flags.pdf>

Read about six workplace red flags. Pay attention to the details and come up with a title for each paragraph.

Six Corporate Red Flags

Now, you'll read about six workplace red flags. Pay attention to the details and come up with a title!

1. _____

First up, unlimited PTO. Here's why I see them as a red flag: Companies that rely heavily on your PTO are often companies that save money by not paying for unused vacation days. It's not just a perk, it's a benefit of your total compensation. If you don't use it, it's not yours. It's better consistent experience!

2. _____

Europeans might find a limited number of sick days, especially frustrating. You're especially frustrated because they're sick, which can be a sign that you should stay home for your mental health.

3. _____

Requiring a degree for another issue. While some level positions don't, it's not fair. People's ability to succeed in the workplace is not limited by their education.

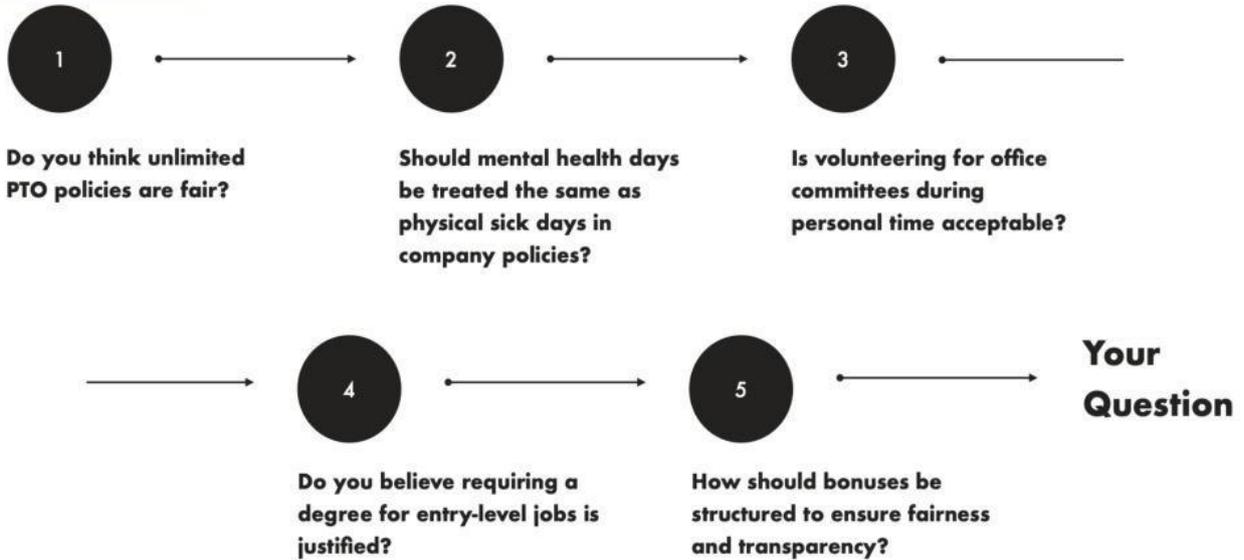
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- a. Forcing Employees Back to the Office
- b. Bonus-Based Compensation
- c. Degree Requirements for Entry-Level Jobs
- d. Unlimited PTO Policies
- e. Mandatory Lunch Meetings
- f. Limited Sick Days
- g. Volunteering for Office Committees



1. Unlimited PTO policies are always beneficial for employees because they have full control over their time off.
2. In North America, employees often get only five sick days a year, and a doctor's note is required for additional days off.
3. Requiring a degree for entry-level jobs that don't need specific trade skills helps employers find more qualified candidates.
4. Volunteering for office committees during personal time is a common practice and should be expected of employees.
5. Forcing employees back to the office without a valid reason can negatively impact employee morale and productivity.
6. Compensation based heavily on bonuses tied to unrealistic goals can be problematic for employees.

QUESTIONS



OFFICE SCENES

*Have you listened to any of these expressions at work?
- How did you feel when you heard it?*

- 1. Give 110%** – To put in maximum effort.
- 2. Think outside the box** – To think creatively and differently.
- 3. Work hard, play hard** – Balance intense work with relaxation and fun.
- 4. I hear you** – Acknowledging understanding of someone's point.
- 5. Let's circle back** – To revisit a topic or discussion later.
- 6. Win-win situation** – A situation where all parties benefit.
- 7. Take it offline** – To discuss something privately or outside the current meeting.
- 8. Synergy** – Collaboration that produces better results than individual efforts.
- 9. Low-hanging fruit** – Easy tasks or problems to solve.
- 10. The bottom line** – The most important result or point.
- 11. Back to square one** – To start over after failure.
- 12. On the same page** – When everyone understands and agrees on the same thing.

