

Positivity Toward *Against You* People

Nonprofit Working With High Schools

My part time job was an outreach job. I was supposed to make arrangements with teachers to visit their schools. I was supposed to talk to students about what the nonprofit offered.

I spent one day on the job, making phone calls to schools. All of the teachers were busy, so I left messages with receptionists at each school.

After that one day, my boss fired me. In an effort to prevent me from getting unemployment, my boss told lies about why I was fired. One lie was that I had been rude when calling the teachers.

An investigator for unemployment called to ask my side of the story. She believed me, so I received unemployment payments. With that victory, I wrote a letter to the national office for the nonprofit, bystanders to this incident. This is what I wrote about that lie:

My boss and I sat at desks that touched each other. We were maybe three feet apart. I made phone calls to schools three feet away from my boss. I had to leave messages with receptionists because all of the teachers were busy.

I'm smart enough to know that I shouldn't make rude phone calls three feet away from my boss.

My boss is smart enough to know she shouldn't let any employee complete even one rude phone call three feet away from her.

Together we are smart enough to know that this should never happen.

Which means it never did happen.

The positivity in my letter made my former boss look smart. I proved she was lying without using the words "lie" or "liar" or "lying." The nonprofit failed to respond.

I never learned the real reason I had been fired. Since my boss had to make up lies to justify firing me, someone must have used ugly gossip to stereotype me.