Navigating Difficult Conversations in School Libraries Worksheet

In the second edition of the *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians and School Libraries*, Part IV contains scenarios about common challenges school librarians face in their practice. School librarians can use this worksheet to identify ways to turn challenges into advocacy opportunities by analyzing the AASL Standards Frameworks, Common Beliefs, and the Roles of the School Librarian.

SCENARIO
Describe the challenge your learners, your school library, or you are facing in 2-3 sentences.

RESPONDING TO THE CONCERNS
Identify the concerns you, your learners, and/or other stakeholders may have in the situation described above. Then, identify at least one standard from each of the three Standards Frameworks that are applicable in this situation. Finally, briefly state how the Standards you identified apply in this situation.

The Concerns	**The Standards**	**The Application**

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COMMON BELIEFS IN ACTION

Identify which Common Beliefs will shape your actions in this scenario. Identify what actions you will take to demonstrate these Common Beliefs.

X	Common Beliefs	In Action
	The school library is a unique and essential part of a learning community.	
	Qualified school librarians lead effective school libraries.	
	Learners should be prepared for college, career, and life.	
	Reading is the core of personal and academic competency.	
	Intellectual freedom is every learner's right.	
	Information technologies must be appropriately integrated and equitably available.	

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN ROLES IN ACTION

Identify which School Librarian Roles you will use in this scenario. Identify what actions you will take to demonstrate these roles.

X	Roles	In Action
	Leader	
	Instructional Partner	
	Information Specialist	
	Teacher	
	Program Administrator	

THE CONVERSATION

Answer the reflection questions below to help you analyze and prepare your response to this situation.

1. How will you establish common ground with the parties involved?

2. How can you advocate for your learners, your school library, and/or yourself in response to this situation?

3. What are some additional actions you can take that will improve your school library or help you prepare for, avoid, or anticipate this scenario in the future?

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