

Officer Presence Mock Scenes

These scenes offer a good opportunity to give instruction about how to act like a cop and display confidence and officer presence. Every class has a few recruits that are timid and cannot engage in their scenes when it is necessary. We have had good results with asking those recruits (usually between 4 and 8) to stay after one night on a voluntary basis.

Run the listed scenes with all the recruits watching. It works better to do single-officer scenes. Let them learn from each other and build off of each other. I like to let each one do the same exact scene all in a row. Each one will do better as he/she picks-up skills from watching the others. I debrief after each run-through and demonstrate the skills and techniques I want them to replicate.

Make the calls cut-and-dry. Don't get bogged-down in discussions of law or other academy topics. Focus on the Officer Presence aspects of the calls. Focus on the verbal skills, body language, and appropriate force decisions. I stop the scenes before any fighting or full-on DT stuff happens. Once the recruit officer commits to the DT moves and goes in for the hands-on stuff, I call Kings-X. What we're looking for is the *decision* to use force – not the actual force.

#1 – Trespassing Subject is Argumentative and Aggressive

- Grocery store, officer is told that subject has been asked to leave and will not leave.
- Subject is sitting down in a chair.
- Subject verbally argues when officer approaches.
- Subject asks lots of questions and tries to delay officer.
- As soon as officer finally decides to go hands-on, subject says, “OK! OK! I’m going!” and tries to pull away from Officer.
- Subject tries to leave the store.

Desired Outcome:

- Officer takes tactically safe position
- Officer sounds confident
- Officer presents options to subject:
 - Leave now, or
 - Be arrested for trespassing
- Officer doesn’t get caught-up in a long argument or allow the subject to delay the action
- Officer makes decision to arrest and tells subject “You are under arrest.”
- Officer moves in to go hands-on and when subject pulls away, appropriate control technique is used

Training Point:

- Explain that once your decision to arrest the suspect is made and you move in, it’s too late. The suspect can’t just say “OK! OK!” and change your mind. You have a good solid arrest, you go through with it. Do not let the suspect influence you into not affecting your lawful arrest.

#2 – Trespassing Subject is Aggressive and Comes Towards Officer

- Grocery store, officer is told that subject has been asked to leave and will not leave.
- Subject is sitting down in a chair.
- As soon as officer walks up, subject jumps up and comes towards officer yelling, getting close enough to grab officer/gun.
- Subject will not stop yelling.
- Subject does not respond to verbal orders to step back, and must be physically made to move back.

Desired Outcome:

- Officer takes tactically safe position
- As soon as subject gets too close, officer firmly yells for suspect to "Get back!"
- Officer pushes suspect back and continues to give strong verbal commands. Officer continues to use reasonable force to back suspect up.
- Once space is created, officer should be ready for further problems. Officer should grab baton or pepper spray and keep hands up in fighting stance.
- Or if officer takes physical control of suspect, it is done swiftly and with confidence
- No matter what, officer does not let the suspect crowd him/her.

Training Point:

- Explain the importance of keeping subjects out of your personal space. Explain that we have to assume the worst: If a subject is coming into our personal space they are planning on taking our gun and killing us with it. Demonstrate how quickly you can close the gap and grab the officer/gun.