

**1. INT: MEETING ROOM WESTMINSTER PLANNING DEPARTMENT
(MORNING)**

There are four PEOPLE sitting around a TABLE. NATE is standing by a WHITEBOARD holding a MARKER PEN.

FRED

Thank-you for attending this meeting Ladies and Gents. We need to design a sign to put on the scaffolding at Victoria Station to stop people climbing it.

SIOBAHN

You mean those urban extreme sporty bods.

FRED

And the bloody vandals.

BILL

And a sign is going to stop them? Really?

TESS

We need the warning otherwise we could be liable if someone fell from it. They could hold us responsible.

FRED

So I've invited Nate to join us and he'll transform your ideas into a sign.

Three hours later, the TABLE is littered with empty CUPS, PLATES, crumpled, paper NAPKINS and a lot of screwed-up PAPER.

BILL

How about a splattered body at the bottom of some scaffolding.

SIOBAHN

Too gory, there'll be complaints from parents.

BILL

Just a man looking as though he's about to climb then?

SIOBAHN

We can't be sexist. Why can't it be a woman?

TESS

Because women aren't stupid enough to go scrambling over the scaffold.

FRED

Siobahn's right. OK Nate, make it a gender non-specific person looking as though they are about to climb something.

Nate draws a stick person looking as though they are about to take a step onto some scaffolding.

FRED

No, no, Nate. We don't want scaffolding in the sign.

NATE

But I thought the whole point was to stop people climbing the scaffolding.

BILL

What Fred means is that we can't use it for anything else if we include scaffolding. This way, it can be used everywhere in the borough where we don't want climbing.

SIOBAHN

That'll be like on every building, bus-stop, construction site, in fact, like everywhere then.

BILL

That's not a bad idea. We could make it compulsory that every business, edifice, construction site has to have one, which we sell for £100 each.

Bill then takes out his IPAD.

SIOBAHN

Could our person wear climbing boots or something? It looks more like a ballet dancer than a climber.

FRED

Nate, put a red circle around it, a red bar across it and write 'NO CLIMBING' underneath.

NATE draws a red circle around the figure, puts a red bar across it and writes 'NO CLIMBING' underneath.

SIOBAHN

It still looks like a ballet dancer.

TESS

And we need a safety rope, otherwise we're encouraging dangerous climbing.

FRED puts his head in his hands in despair.

FRED

But that's the point. We don't want any climbing.

SIOBAHN

Tess is right. We could be seen as irresponsible if we don't have a

safety rope. We need to convey the message that climbing without a rope is dangerous.

FRED

OK, OK Nate, add a safety rope.

NATE adds a safety rope.

FRED

So can we have a vote. Do we all agree that this will be our new sign at Victoria?

SIOBAHN and TESS raise their hands.

FRED

Bill, what about you?

BILL

Eh? Are you talking to me?

FRED

Yes, get your head out of your iPad and agree with us about the new sign, otherwise we're never going to get home tonight.

BILL

I think it's ok, but you do realise that it is the same as the standard sign for 'no technical climbing'.

Bill holds up his iPad so they can all see the screen.

FRED

So what?

BILL

If it means that only technical climbing is not permitted ...

TESS

... it doesn't apply to illegal climbing, which is exactly what we're trying to prevent.

FRED

Sod it. I've had it with health and safety. Just put it up.