

Mastering the Manipulator

Let's face it: Some managers are scarily skilful at guiltng you into stepping up.

Here are five of their strong-arm strategies, and responses that will help you extricate yourself gracefully.

<p>The Emotional Blackmailer</p> <p>"If you won't agree to organize the awards banquet again this year, it just won't happen."</p>	<p>Comeback</p> <p>"Maybe that's a good thing – if it really mattered to people, they'd be more willing to get involved."</p>
<p>The Helpless Chairperson</p> <p>"You're our only hope! No one knows how to run Explore Conestoga but you!"</p>	<p>Comeback</p> <p>"You'll be just fine – it's not hard to figure out. Just have your new Explore Conestoga person call me. I'll be happy to give them some suggestions."</p>
<p>The Mad Martyr</p> <p>"Why won't you help? The same five people always have to do everything."</p>	<p>Comeback</p> <p>"I know, and I appreciate how hard you work. I hope to be able to do more in the future. But right now, I just don't have time."</p>
<p>The Repeat Offender</p> <p>"Any chance you can work on the [Any-Name] Committee? (Asked after every meeting of that Committee)."</p>	<p>Comeback</p> <p>"Recruiting volunteers takes constant effort – and your persistence is admirable! I'll forgive you for asking every week if you forgive me for declining each time."</p>
<p>The Shameless Flatterer</p> <p>"You write the <i>best</i> course outlines."</p>	<p>Comeback</p> <p>"Thanks, but I've learned so much from this job, I'd really like someone new to have the same opportunity."</p>