

WRITING SAMPLES

Newsletter Samples

Ayomide Victor Oluwatimilehin

Three original samples written for this project: one full newsletter issue, and two shorter reflections in a moment / reflection / takeaway format, adapted from a devotional structure to workplace experience. All demonstrate the same voice: personal, reflective, purposefully vulnerable.

SAMPLE 1: FULL ISSUE - THE MEETING WHERE I ALMOST DIDN'T SAY IT

There's a version of that meeting where I stay quiet.

Where the project is behind, the room already feels tense, and I decide the smart move is to nod, take notes, and save my real concerns for a private conversation later. That version is easier. It's also the version where nothing actually changes.

Instead, I said the thing. Not dramatically, just honestly: "I think we're solving the wrong problem here." The room went quiet for a second. Then someone else said, "I've been thinking that too, I just didn't want to be the one to say it."

That's the part nobody tells you about vulnerability at work. It's rarely a big, emotional moment. Usually it's just one honest sentence, said a beat before it becomes comfortable to say it.

Here's what I've learned leading teams through moments like that one:

Silence in a room is not the same as agreement. It's often just everyone waiting for permission.

The first honest voice gives the second one courage. You rarely have to convince a whole room, you just have to go first.

Vulnerability without purpose is oversharing. Vulnerability with purpose moves the work forward. The difference is whether you're saying it to be seen, or saying it because the team needs it said.

I still don't love that feeling right before I say the honest thing. I don't think that feeling ever fully goes away, and maybe it shouldn't. It's usually a sign the sentence matters.

What's a moment you almost stayed quiet, and didn't? I'd genuinely like to know.

SAMPLE 2: SHORT REFLECTION

Moment:

"I don't have it all figured out either." That's what my manager said in a meeting where I expected her to have every answer.

Reflection:

I remember waiting for the follow-up, the part where she'd recover and sound certain again. It never came. She just moved on to the next agenda item like admitting uncertainty was nothing to recover from.

It took me years to understand what she actually gave the room that day. Not an answer. Permission. Permission to not perform certainty we didn't have, so we could actually solve the problem instead of pretending we already had.

Takeaway:

The strongest thing a leader can say is sometimes "I don't know," said early enough that the team can help.

SAMPLE 3: SHORT REFLECTION

Moment:

A junior teammate once asked me, "Is it okay if I disagree with you?" mid-meeting, voice shaking slightly.

Reflection:

The fact that she had to ask told me everything about the room I'd built without meaning to. Somewhere along the way, "professional" had quietly turned into "agreeable," and I hadn't noticed I was rewarding silence.

I told her yes, obviously, and then I had to sit with why that question needed asking at all. Psychological safety isn't a policy you write. It's the fifty small moments before it where someone decides whether it's actually safe to speak.

Takeaway:

If people have to ask permission to disagree with you, you already have your answer.

All copy in this document is original work by Ayomide Victor Oluwatimilehin, written as fictional samples to demonstrate voice and structure for a leadership newsletter. None has been published or used elsewhere.