**MMI Sample Response - ACTING**

**SITUATION (prompt shown on screen before actors begin)**

You are roommates with Alex. She hasn’t done her share of the dishes in the last month and leaves her belongings all over the apartment. Her room is starting to smell from the leftover food/dishes she leaves out. Enter the room and discuss this situation with her.

***STUDENT*** *enters the room to see ALEX sitting looking at her hands in silence.*

**STUDENT**

 Hi Alex. How was your day today?

 *STUDENT smiles*

**ALEX**

 It was fine.

**STUDENT**

Do you mind if I come in and sit down?

**ALEX**

 Yeah, sure.

**STUDENT**

I have so many assignments due this week, and I know that I‘m really stressed about school. How have you been handling everything?

**ALEX**

 Like school?

**STUDENT**

 Yeah, school, or whatever else you’ve been up to.

**ALEX**

Well, school is starting to get tough and the assignments are piling up. I just can’t find time for much else.

**STUDENT**

I totally get that. I’ve just noticed that you’ve been spending a lot of time alone lately and I was wondering if maybe we could chat roommate to roommate about it? Is there something that’s been troubling you?

**ALEX**

Look, just because I’ve been spending time alone doesn’t mean that there’s something wrong with me that I want to discuss to death. I just have a lot of assignments that I need to get finished. (Start to get angry)

**STUDENT**

 *STUDENT is taken aback for a moment and takes a beat to think.*

Alex, I didn’t mean to offend you, and I am sorry if that is the way I have made you feel. I just know that when I have a lot on my plate I like to have someone to talk to to make me feel supported. I just wanted to make sure that you feel like you’re supported and respected in this house … and there is something that the other roommates and I wanted to bring up with you.

**ALEX**

 Great. What now?

**STUDENT**

Well we’ve noticed that you haven’t been doing your share of dishes in the house and that they seem to be piling up in your room lately. We want to know if you need some help to get through them … maybe we could set up a schedule in the house for one person each week to be responsible for dishes? We’re genuinely concerned and want to help you.

**ALEX**

 WE? I don’t see anyone else in here desperate to hang out with me. What – did you draw the short straw? (Very angry and bitter tone)

**STUDENT**

 Alex, please. I care and I’m here because we are friends. How can I help you?

**ALEX**

 You can’t ok, I don’t think anyone can help. Life just sucks. (Alex sighs and stops being angry but is still distant and quiet)

**STUDENT**

 Maybe I won’t fully understand Alex, but I want to try. What can I do to make you feel more comfortable?

**ALEX**

 I’m fine. I’ve just been really stressed lately and I feel like I can’t handle my classes and assignments. I’ll get to the dishes soon ok?! (Sound exasperated)

**STUDENT**

 Alex, I don’t care about the dishes. I care about what you’re going through. Is there more? Something else? (Sound genuine and sincere)

**ALEX**

 You wouldn’t understand.

**STUDENT**

 Try me. I might not have any brilliant solutions, but it might help for you to just say it out loud to someone you can trust.

**ALEX**

 *Silence. Don’t say anything.*

**STUDENT**

 *Sits in silence. Gives Alex time/space. Shows comfortable with silence – uses body language/compassionate facial expressions. Leans in/moves closer (but doesn’t touch Alex).*

**ALEX**

 *Waits 30 seconds then says:* My dad lost his job. I feel really bad for him. I’m now a huge burden on my parents too because they still want to help with school. It’s not like I can get it together enough to even find time for a job with all my schoolwork anyway.

**STUDENT**

 Alex. I’m sorry. It sounds like it is really overwhelming.

**ALEX**

 Yeah,

**STUDENT**

 I’m here for you. Please don’t call yourself a burden. You are handling so much! Sure some dishes are getting forgotten, no one likes doing dishes anyway! But you are doing all your school work. I’m struggling with my workload too. How can I help you handle this?

**ALEX**

 I don’t know. I just don’t know.

**STUDENT**

 What if tomorrow we hang out and talk some more about your dad and your family. Maybe we can figure out how you can talk to them about how you are feeling, and maybe there is a way you can help them too without losing focus on school.

**ALEX**

 *ALEX looks back down at her hands and takes a deep breath.*

OK. Tomorrow’s fine. I’m just really busy right now anyway with classes and assignments.

**STUDENT**

 Me too. I have project deadlines and group members that keep asking me for my part of the assignment. I don’t want to let them down, and have a lot of work to do.

**ALEX**

 Yeah.

**STUDENT**

 Do you feel trapped in here? In your room? Like you have to keep working in here all the time?

**ALEX**

 Yes! (Small smile). That’s exactly how I feel. (Sigh)

**STUDENT**

Do you think if you didn’t feel so trapped in you room, you might be able to focus better?

**ALEX**

Yeah, maybe. The thing is that I like being at home where all of my stuff is, so I don’t forget anything. I don’t know what else to do, but be in here.

**STUDENT**

You know, we both have a lot of work to do. Would you want to bring your stuff down to the living room and we could study in there together? It would give you a change of scenery, and maybe you and I can keep each other company, and focused. We can make some tea, and a snack or something.

**ALEX**

Yeah. OK. I could do that I guess.

**STUDENT**

 Is there anything else that’s been bothering you?

**ALEX**

There’s a lot going on. With my family … with all my school work. Sometimes I feel like I can’t focus on my work because I’m stuck thinking about my friends and that I never see them. It just makes it all worse.

**STUDENT**

That’s hard Alex. I get it.

**ALEX**

 *Silence.*

**STUDENT**

Keeping balance is really important. Do you have any deadlines that are coming up tonight?

**ALEX**

 Uhhh…no. My next deadline is tomorrow night.

**STUDENT**

Would you like to take a break from working and watch a movie tonight? Maybe we could get the entire house together. That way you can have something to look forward to while we study and you can take a break.

**ALEX**

That actually sounds really nice. Taking a few hours off shouldn’t be a problem as long as I can keep focused…