**Video Title:** Playing Positive Office Politics

**Video URL:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--Z9yOEH6oQ**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--Z9yOEH6oQ)

**Run Time/Source:** 4:43, BNET/YouTube

**Close Caption Available:** No

The subject of office (or organizational) politics is covered in pages 256-263 of the textbook. The video explains that negative types of office politicians, including a Spy, Bully, Gatekeeper, and Buck Passer can be found in most offices. It has been estimated that 42 percent of a manager’s time is spend dealing with conflict, and much of that conflict stems from office politics.

A variety of principles and techniques, or rules of engagement, can help keep office politics positive in your work environment. Expand your influence by finding ways to work cross-functionally, thereby expanding your influence. Size up your company culture to determine the best political tactics. Find mentors to guide you with respect to office behavior. Ask higher ups for advice, and do not become a gossip. Remember the power of reciprocity, or the fact that most humans expect to be repaid for acts of kindness, such as showing appreciation for them publicly. You will be less upset with office politics if you recognize that such behavior is only human. When people engage in negative office politics it is often because they feel insecure.

*Questions for Thought and Discussion*

1. Why would this video be particularly helpful to a worker who says “I hate office politics”?

2. A viewer of this video posted the comment, “Kiss ass employees move ahead even faster than an employee that works hard but doesn’t play the trumpet.” How does this comment fit it a serious study of office politics?

3. Why can asking higher ups for advance be such an effective approach to playing organizational politics?

4. Why might a person need to be skilled at office politics just to find a mentor?

5. Why is extensive engagement if office gossip perceived to be a negative form of organization politics?