

1. The challenge or theme illustrated by this episode: in a stressful situation where coordination is required and interpersonal bonds important, how to tell someone you're angry without harming hurting relationship necessary for another project.
2. The context of this conversation is my working with two other people to complete a large assignment that included a great deal of quantitative analysis, writing, and presentation (the project had to 'look' good). Selma did the quant work, I did the writing, and Miguel did the presentation. Two days before the assignment is due (due on Monday morning), Miguel and I tried to determine our timeline. It was high stress—my thoughts and feelings were really hostile on Friday morning...I've understated my thoughts and feelings here significantly.

3.

My Thoughts and Feelings

Don't rush me!

There isn't much more to do, this is the easiest part of the project: it just takes time.

I can't believe it—this is supposed to be your part of the assignment, where your work comes in—and you're going to NY?

Yeah...you're right. But you knew Selma and I were running behind, don't blame me.

Don't ask me to do anything on the next project.

I'm the delivery girl too?!?

I'm going to hate my Sunday.

What We Said

A: I should have the final draft done by noon tomorrow. (Saturday)

M: I need it now! I have to integrate both of your (Selma and I) stuff now or it won't be done.

A: You have the basic stuff and the second draft, and it's already formatted, right?

M: Amy, it takes a really long time for me to get all of this stuff together.

A: Ok fine, I'll help you with the formatting on Sunday.

M: I'm not going to be around on Sunday. I'll be in New York.

A: You told me you were really quick at this stuff—Selma and I are pretty much done.

M: You can't give it to me at the last minute, we said we'd be done by tonight.

A: Know what, fine, I'll finish it on Sunday and you can pick up more work next time.

M: Fine. Can you put a copy in my mailbox when it's bound?

A: OK. Enjoy New York.

M: See you Monday.

4. If I had told Miguel on Tuesday or Wednesday that Selma and I were running behind due to data problems, would he have postponed his trip to New York.? Maybe this was the right way to handle it—we're going to work together on two more huge projects and I want us to be friendly. Was I being unreasonable or was he being inflexible?