

## VALUES EXERCISE

### THE CHOICE

Process: Divide class into small groups and provide the following information to them. They must make a choice about the distribution of the scholarship money based on the information provided.

#### The Problem:

A philanthropist has offered to pay for the college education for three students from an urban area near the University. Your committee has the task of awarding the scholarships. Nine students have been referred to your committee as possible recipients of the scholarships and it is up to you to make the decision as to which of them will be given the opportunity to continue their education. Comments from their short essays on the application form are below.

#### Restrictions:

1. The philanthropist will only provide funds for three of these students.
2. None of these students will be able to attend college without the scholarship.
3. You must decide based only on the information given below.

#### The Students:

Suzanne --I'm an unwed mother of a 2-year-old boy. My son's father disappeared 3 months before Joshua was born. I still live my parents but things are not good at home. I think they don't like to babysit for me when I want to go out with my friends. I am eighteen years old and work part-time at McDonalds after school to pay daycare expenses. In high school I was really good in business classes and am interested in the 2 year secretarial program in college so I can get a better job and support myself and my son.

Mohammed --I am 28 and a Palestinian who was raised in Jordan. I am a permanent resident of the US now. My family will soon come to be here with me and I will help them get established. The international student office encouraged me to apply for this scholarship My English is improving rapidly – I can read newspapers and magazines easily. I am a very hard worker and learn things quickly. I know about business from my family and in Jordan— I want to study business here.

Donald -- I'm 23 and was a very good student in high school but I didn't want to go to college for a couple years until I got my head together. Now I really want to come back to school to study social work -- I feel can really help people. I discovered last year that I was HIV positive. I am taking AZT and I have no symptoms. I'll move back in with my parents so I can afford school. But this scholarship will make a real difference and give me the confidence I need.

Leo -- I'm 18 and I spent the last 3 years in the county reform school. They said my juvenile record was really long. My parents were into drugs so I didn't have good role models. I had a good teacher in reform school who encouraged me and now I really like studying and reading. My buddies say the real money can be made in the streets, but I don't want to go to jail for the rest of my life. My friends think I'm crazy to spend so much time reading, but I think I could get ahead with a college education and would work hard if accepted.

Sam -- I'm 17 and I played basketball in high school but I wasn't good enough to get an athletic scholarship to college. I coach basketball in our community center. I wasn't a great high school student because I played basketball and had to work too. But I did get through--I was the first person to graduate in my family and I'll be the first person to try college. My mom is really proud of me. I want so much to succeed so I can be a coach--maybe in a high school. I want to help kids the way my teachers and coaches helped me.

Sandra -- I'm 18 and my aunt is raising me and my three brothers. I won some art contests in high school and my teacher said I really had potential. I love art but the other academic subjects in school were pretty

boring. My boyfriend is pressuring me to get married and start a family, but I dream of making it big with my paintings. I work with people who went to college--they think I should go too. I think they are right.

Phoebe -- I am 60 years old and just got my GED going to school at night. I have 4 children that I supported working nights as a custodian in a downtown office building. They are also trying to get through college. My husband died two years ago and left me no money. I found out that I am a good student and can make good grades. I really like going to classes. This would be a marvelous opportunity for me.

Tony -- I'm 18 and I've lived in a boy's home for the last 4 years because I couldn't get along with my mother. Last year my brother moved there too. I have never been a great student but I have done OK the people at the home tell me I have lots of discipline. I like to read things like science fiction stories. I work 25 hours a week at a restaurant. Pretty soon I will have to move out and be on my own. This scholarship will help make sure I can do it.

Nancy—I am 28, am divorced and have 3 young kids. One of my kids has bad asthma and misses a lot of school. My husband is always behind in the child support. I work part-time as a cook. I must get a better paying job so I can give my kids a better life. I live with my boyfriend and he helps me with the rent. I want to study something like business or accounting or computers so I can get a good job. I was a pretty good student in high school--liked history, psychology, and English. I wasn't so good at math. I need this scholarship for my kids.

***Your committee must choose 3 recipients. Be prepared to explain your choices.***



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