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Materials: Vignettes

GERNSBACHER, M. A., Raimond, R. A., Balinghasay, M. T., & Boston, J. S. (2016) "Special needs" is an ineffective euphemism.

Vignette 1

You are a freshman about to enter your first year of college at a large state university. You decide to live in the dormitories and need to select a roommate. Based on the following descriptions, select your first, second, third, and fourth choice for the person you would like to have as a roommate.

Roommate A is a 19-year-old history major. Roommate A is from a small town, 40 minutes away. Roommate A likes to play soccer, and watch movies, with an extensive DVD collection that they are planning to bring to your dorm room. Roommate A prefers to study at the library. Roommate A is in a serious romantic relationship that started in high school and might have their significant other visiting in your room, even overnight.

Roommate B is an 18-year-old business major and has special needs. [Material Set 1]

Roommate B is an 18-year-old business major and has a disability. [Material Set 2]

Roommate B is an 18-year-old business major and is blind. [Material Set 3]

Roommate B is an 18-year-old business major. [Material Sets 4, 5, and 6]

Roommate B is from a small town, four hours away. Roommate B enjoys hiking, camping and going on long runs, and is a vegan. Roommate B studies mainly at the library. When in your room, Roommate B will be very social and keep your dorm room door open to everyone on your floor.

Roommate C is a 19-year-old Spanish major. Roommate C is from out of state. Roommate C likes being active, hanging out with friends, and practicing the guitar in your room. Roommate C is a morning person, going to sleep around 9:30 p.m. and waking up around 6:00 a.m. every day. Roommate C will use those early mornings to study. Roommate C is personable and loves to talk but can also be a bit intense.

Roommate D is an 18-year-old psychology major. Roommate D is from the largest city in the state.

Roommate D likes to draw, play tennis, and listen to loud music. Roommate D always studies with music playing through their headphones. Roommate D is a night owl and, as an only child, has never shared a room before.

Vignette 2

You are a second-grade teacher at the local elementary school. Your class is full to capacity, but the principal needs to place one more child in your class. Based on the following descriptions, select your first, second, third, and fourth choice for the child you would like to join your class.

Child A is an only child. Child A's favorite subject is spelling. Child A is academically gifted and loves to ask questions. Child A has a lot of energy and will be constantly moving around in the classroom. Child A has just started reading the Harry Potter books.

Child B is the oldest in their family, with three younger siblings. [Material Sets 1, 2, and 3]

Child B is the oldest in their family, with three younger siblings, and has special needs. [Material Set 4]

Child B is the oldest in their family, with three younger siblings, and has a disability. [Material Set 5]

Child B is the oldest in their family, with three younger siblings, and has Down syndrome. [Material Set 6]

Child B's favorite subject is art. Child B is an outgoing child who has several friends in your classroom already. Child B has a very big imagination and will frequently ask to play make believe. Child B loves cartoon characters.

Child C has one younger brother. Child C's favorite subject is math. Child C is creative and enjoys making new friends. Child C tries hard at school but really struggles with reading. Child C's favorite color is blue.

Child D is the middle child in the family, with one older sister and one younger brother. Social Studies is Child D's favorite subject. Child D is well liked by other children because Child D is kind. Child D will need frequent reminders to complete their work on time. Child D is learning to play the piano.

Vignette 3

At the large firm at which you work, you've been tasked with launching and completing an important project. The project's success could mean a big pay raise for you. You've been told to select a Co-worker from the pool of colleagues at your firm to work on this important project with you. Based on the following descriptions, select your first, second, third, and fourth choice for the Co-worker you would like to work with on this important project.

Co-worker A has been with the firm for 5 years. Co-worker A is very good at time management. Co-worker A has a strong personality but can be a bit bossy. Although Co-worker A delegates tasks well, Co-worker A sometimes takes a lighter workload.

Co-worker B has just recently starting working at the firm but came from one of the competitor firms. Co-worker B gives excellent presentations. Although Co-worker B tends to brown-nose you, you've heard that Co-Worker B will often gossip and twist the dialogue. Co-worker B is ambitious, but they're known as a hard worker.

Co-worker C has been at the firm for 3 years and has a disability. [Material Set 1]

Co-worker C has been at the firm for 3 years and has epilepsy. [Material Set 2]

Co-worker C has been at the firm for 3 years and has special needs. [Material Set 3]

Co-worker C has been at the firm for 3 years. [Material Sets 4, 5, and 6]

Co-worker C has excellent analytical skills. However, Co-worker C tends to let their personal life affect their performance at work. Co-worker C takes direction very well but isn't always super high energy.

Co-worker D has been with the firm for 7 years. Co-worker D has good interpersonal communication and networking skills. Co-worker D is strongly opinionated, and sometimes their comments are productive. Co-worker D's work tends to fall in the middle of the pack; it is neither spectacular nor horrible.

Vignette 4

You're a college student who has decided to go on an alternative spring break in the Appalachian Mountain region, focusing on environmental restoration, protection, and maintenance. You've never met any of the other students who are also going on the trip, but you need to choose one other person with whom you will be paired throughout the entire week, including sharing a cabin and working side-by-side on the project. Based on the following descriptions, select your first, second, third and fourth choice for the student you would like to be paired with.

Student A is studying business. Student A plays on the club soccer team and is also deeply involved in Greek life (sororities and fraternities). Student A is super friendly, outgoing, and is very resourceful at problem solving. Student A decided to go on the trip because they needed volunteer services to pad their resume. Student A has already started to complain a little about the primitive accommodations but can bring along a lot of expensive gear to share with you.

Student B is studying biology and is a pre-med student. Student B is strongly interested in wildlife conservation. As president of the Conservation Club on campus, their interest in conservation was the sole motivator for their joining the trip. Student B is very practical, but not long in patience, and can easily become terse and snappish. Student B is a strong leader, but tends to dominate every group they're in.

Student C is studying psychology. [Material Sets 1, 2, and 3]

Student C is studying psychology and has a disability. [Material Set 4]

Student C is studying psychology and has ADHD. [Material Set 5]

Student C is studying psychology and has special needs. [Material Set 6]

Student C is an active member of student government. Student C joined the trip because their best friend went last year and had a blast. Student C is a big talker but not always a good listener. Student C is a very strong and a hard worker but hasn't had any experience doing the type of restoration work you'll be doing, so you might find yourself having to instruct them or even doing some of their tasks.

Student D is studying history and journalism. Student D is a member of the campus outdoor activity club as an avid skier and snowboarder. Student D joined the trip only because they wanted to leave campus for spring break and couldn't afford to go to Colorado with their friends. Student D is adventurous and excited about the project. Student D is high-energy but doesn't have a super long attention span, which might make them go off task occasionally.

Vignette 5

You are the coach of your community's junior basketball team. The team is open to 9- to 11-year olds and is limited to 12 players. Practices are held every Tuesday and Thursday after school, and the team often travels to meets across town on Saturdays. You need to choose one more player for your roster. Based on the following descriptions, select your first, second, third and fourth choice for the player you would like to have on the team.

Player A is 10 years old. Player A is home-schooled but has participated on other sports teams. Player A enjoys helping other people and wants to be a doctor when they grow up. Although this is Player A's third year to play basketball, their skills aren't that advanced. Player A is enthusiastic about practice but gets nervous during the games.

Player B is 9 years old. Player B's family has just moved to town. Player B loves riding horses and wants to be a vet when they grow up. This is Player B's second year to play basketball. Player B has good hand-eye coordination but can't jump very high.

Player C is 10 years old and is tall for their age. Player C is a fourth-grader at the nearby elementary school. When Player C grows up, they want to be a firefighter, just like their uncle. This is Player C's first year to play basketball, but they played baseball last year. Player C is a fast runner but isn't very agile.

Player D is 11 years old, is short for their age, and is autistic. [Material Set 1]

Player D is 11 years old, is short for their age, and has special needs. [Material Set 2]

Player D is 11 years old, is short for their age, and has a disability. [Material Set 3]

Player D is 11 years old, is short for their age. [Material Sets 4, 5, and 6]

Player D lives a couple of streets over from you, but you haven't gotten to know Player D or their family yet. Player D spends a lot of time playing video games and wants to design video games when they grow up. This is Player D's second year to play basketball. Player D has some raw talent but isn't always keen to practice.

Vignette 6

You are a 40-something who has just signed up for an adult cooking class at your local community center. On the first day of the 12-week cooking class, the instructor informs you that all members of the class will be divided into pairs who will work together throughout the course. Based on the following descriptions, select your first, second, third and fourth choice for the person you would like to be paired with.

Person A is 45-year-old physician. Person A always follows instructions, though a bit obsessively. Person A is self-motivated. Person A is married and has two dogs.

Person B is a 30-year-old computer programmer at a technology start-up company. Person B prefers working alone, but has good interpersonal skills. Person B is eager to learn new skills. Person B is engaged to be married.

Person C is a 39-year-old stay-at-home parent who also cares for their own elderly parents. Person C is very forgiving of others' mistakes and quick to praise and encourage others. Person C tends to get nervous when working in front of other people. Person C has two children in elementary school.

Person D is a 50-year-old successful entrepreneur. [Material Sets 1, 2, and 3]

Person D is a 50-year-old successful entrepreneur and is deaf. [Material Set 4]

Person D is a 50-year-old successful entrepreneur and has special needs. [Material Set 5]

Person D is a 50-year-old successful entrepreneur and has a disability. [Material Set 6]

Person D is very friendly but tends to chat too much. Person D is good at splitting work tasks evenly. Person D is newly divorced and about to become a grandparent.