Instructions:

Break into groups of eight. Read the following paragraph and complete the exercise.

A large luxury ocean liner is sinking. Two of the life boats were damaged in an explosion and there is not enough room for all of the passengers. There are eight slots available on the last life boat and there are still 31 people left on board. The ship is sinking in shark-infested waters and there is no chance of survival for “swimmers”. Your group MUST select who is to survive before the ship sinks. You have 15 minutes to solve the problem before the ship sinks. If the decision is NOT made by then ALL the passengers will die.

Passenger List
The President of the United States (Obama) and the First Lady
An important foreign dignitary from Iraq and her husband
A scientist knowing the formula to cure AIDS (cannot be written down)
A scientist knowing the formula to cure Alzheimers (cannot be written down)
A pregnant woman and her husband
Dr. Jason Richter (Psychiatrist from video: “My Doctor, My Lover”)
A family of four (including mother, father, sister, and brother)
A developmentally disabled teenager and his mother
Janet Jackson
Justin Timberlake
Paris Hilton
A former Miss America
A former Mr. Universe
A university professor
Colin Powell
Jennifer Lopez & Marc Anthony
Shaquille O’Neil & Kobe Bryant
President Fox of the Country of Mexico
B. D. Wong (actor on Law & Order: Special Victim as Psychiatrist)
Margaret Cho
Oprah Winfrey
Dr. Phil McGraw
Senator Barney Frank (openly gay)

Points for Task: ________________________________ (15 possible)

Name of Student Participant: ________________________________
1. How were passengers given importance?
2. What collective values of the group were exposed?
3. Were there any strong objections to certain passengers being chosen/not chosen?
4. Who spoke the most?
5. Who spoke the least?
6. Who were the leaders of the problem-solving task?
7. Did anyone volunteer or get chosen to take notes?
8. Who was most assertive about making their opinions known?
9. Was there anyone who felt like they weren’t listened to? Honestly?
10. How were the choices made? Democratic vote? Unanimous decision? Leader(s)?
11. Did the process of the group change during the course of the exercise?
12. What happened as time began to run out?
13. How did this group function that is typical of its functioning normally?
14. How did this group function differently than normal?
15. Were there any surprises? Anyone who is normally quiet get verbal? Etc.