AGED 607  YOUTH LEADERSHIP
ACTIVITY 3-19: PRACTICE DECISION PROBLEM

1. Find a group with whom you can practice your decision-making.

2. Your group task is to determine ONE of the following 5 applicants to receive a $5,000.00 scholarship to the university. See the next page for the "Applicant List." The scholarship is renewable up to 4 years as long as academic progress is satisfactory. Treat all information as accurate.

3. After your group has selected the "winner," consider the following questions:

   A. What value system did people in your group use to make their decision?

   B. How did knowing about different value systems help you facilitate the group's decision?

   C. What other strategies could a leader use to help people with different value systems reach a decision?
APPLICANT LIST

I
George, 17, got through high school in 3 years because, as he says, he “couldn’t take another minute of all the ‘b.s.’” His mother, a social worker, is a widow with 3 children -- all younger than George. During the 3 years George spent in high school, he managed to maintain a 3.0 GPR. University tests predict that he is likely to make a 2.6 in the sciences and a 3.2 in the non-sciences. His mother is pushing hard for him to become a physician, but George says that he isn’t sure what he wants to be. Because of the expense of caring for the other 3 children, and some debts her husband incurred before his death, George’s mother is unable to provide any financial help for George’s college education. George also has been seeing a psychologist. The psychologist’s reports indicate that George had some emotional problems in the past and that he needs an “intellectual change.”

II
Leslie, 19, comes highly recommended from a small town high school where she managed to earn a 3.8 GPR. In her senior year she became involved with a traveling salesman several years older than her. She accepted an engagement ring from him and is known to have spent more than one night with him in a motel in her town. He wanted her to marry him and forget about college. School tests predict that she can earn a 2.6 in the sciences and a 3.3 in the non-sciences. She would like to become a social worker to “help the poor in the big cities.” Her minister says that she has a good mind, but predicts that she’ll “end up marrying that salesman fellow and never finish college.” Her parents are high school dropouts, hard working, and poor.

III
Jason, 27, earned the Silver Star and lost his left arm in Desert Storm. He finished high school while in the Army. University tests predict that he will earn a 2.0 in the sciences and a 2.3 in the non-sciences. He is married and has 7 children under the age of 8. He is eligible for assistance from the Veteran’s Administration, but the amount the VA will give is not adequate to support his large family. Jason wants to major in business to “make enough money so that I’ll not have to live like an animal the way my parents did.”

IV
Barbara, 27, is a divorcée with a 7-year-old daughter. She earned a 2.7 GPR in high school, “because I just messed around.” University tests predict a 2.9 in the sciences and a 3.6 in the non-sciences. She would like to “teach English at a high school somewhere, or maybe a small college if I am lucky.” At 18, she won a beauty contest and is still regarded as beautiful. She says that she has no intention of ever marrying again and appears to be bitter toward men. She gets no child support for her daughter and no alimony for herself. Her present employer gives her a good character reference, but predicts that she will get married again and never finish college.

V
Juan, 19, was offered several football and track scholarships to large universities. The scholarships were all withdrawn, however when Juan had an automobile accident and seriously injured both legs. He can walk very well right now, but cannot compete in athletics. His academic record in high school was poor but his university tests predict 2.5 in sciences and 3.0 in non-sciences. He comes from a very poor home environment. His father was an unskilled laborer and refuses to contribute any money toward Juan’s education. Juan now wants to become a coach even though he has been advised that it may be difficult without a college playing record.