

Chapter 5 Classwork

Exercise 5-5

Instructions: Imagine that you're trying to figure out what classes to take next semester, and you're looking for advice. Identify which of the following persons or subjects is likely to be an **interested party** and which is not.

1) The professor of a class you're thinking of taking.

2) A friend of the professor of a class you're thinking of taking.

3) The *Rate My Professor* review of the professor of a class you're thinking of taking.

4) A group of students talking about the professor of a class you're thinking of taking.

5) Your parents.

6) Your Uncle, who taught sociology at a university for 20 years.

7) Another professor from the same school of the professor of the class you're thinking of taking.

8) A guidance counselor at the school where you're thinking of taking the class.

Exercise 5-6

Instructions: Within each group of observers, who would be most and least **credible** regarding the situation or issue given?

Remember that credibility can be understood as a balance of bias and expertise.

1) Issue: Is *Toronado* (in North Park) the best beer bar in San Diego?

- a. The owner of the bar.
- b. An employee at the bar.
- c. The owner of the bar across the street.
- d. A North Park magazine that reviews local establishments.
- e. A North Park resident who has been to every major bar in San Diego.

2) Imagine you feel that one of your professors graded your paper unfairly. You talk to other students and they feel the same way about his grading of their papers. Later, you find out that this professor is being investigated by the school for unfair grading practices. Regarding whether this professor is *actually* being fair, which choices are most credible?

- a. You.
- b. Other students in the same class that you were in with the professor.
- c. A random sample of students in many of the professor's classes.
- d. A student who loved the professor's class.
- e. The professor's colleagues in his department.
- f. The institution's official report after formally investigating the professor's grading practices.

3) Issue: Should women be allowed to wear revealing clothing in the US?

- a. Men.
- b. Women.

- c. The Supreme Court of the US.
- d. A Catholic priest.
- e. US Citizens.
- f. A Buddhist monk.

4) Issue: Should all police departments in the US be investigated for racial bias?

- a. The police chief of the Detroit police department.
- b. Police officers who were involved in the shooting of minorities.
- c. The Supreme Court of the US.
- d. Police officers who have not been involved in the shooting of minorities.
- e. US Citizens.
- f. Members of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Exercise 5-7

Instructions: Given what you know about the claims given and the sources listed in the following passages, and given your general knowledge, determine whether you should accept, reject, or suspend judgment on the claims in the passages. You might, for example, suspend judgment due to ambiguity or insufficient documentation.

1) “Maps, files, and compasses were hidden in Monopoly sets and smuggled into World War II German prison camps by MI-5, Britain’s counter-intelligence agency, to help British prisoners escape, according to the British manufacturer of the game.”

Source: *Associated Press*.

2) “In ancient Greek and Roman culture, the abandonment of children, most typically through either exposure or sale into slavery, was common. In Athens and other Greek cities, unwanted infants were placed into terracotta pots or other containers and left

outside the city, where they were likely to die from starvation or attack by wild animals.”

Source: *Richard Dawkins Foundation*.

3) “We [the US] torture kidnapped captives, many held for years, in black sites. We carry out “targeted assassinations” of so-called high-value targets. We abolish civil liberties. We drive millions of families from their homes. Those who oppose us do the same. They torture and behead—replicating the execution style of the Christian Crusaders—with their own brand of savagery. They rule as despots. Pain for pain. Blood for blood. Horror for horror. There is a fearsome symmetry to the madness. It is justified by the same religious perversion. It is the same abandonment of what it means to be humane and just.”

Source: *Alternet*.

4) “Several noted economists and distinguished investors are warning of a stock market crash. Billionaire Carl Icahn, for example, recently raised a red flag on a national broadcast when he declared, ‘The public is walking into a trap again as they did in 2007.’ And the prophetic economist Andrew Smithers warns, ‘U.S. stocks are now about 80% overvalued.’”

Source: *National Review*.

5) “Tackling the first dungeon. We will find both of the dungeon's items: the boomerang and the bow, as well as the first shard of the Triforce of Wisdom. Completing the second dungeon. We will find the dungeon's item, the Magical Boomerang, as well as find the next piece of the Triforce of Wisdom.”

Source: *Zelda Dungeon*.

6) “What it says is that if you drive it to 0dBfs (decibels relative to full scale) which, too keep things simple, is the no clipping limit of a digital system (in this case your FocusRite), it will output an analogue level of +10dBu. Autogain should mean

that Traktor normalizes your tracks, i.e. make them all equally loud by changing the gain for you. Which is what you would normally do manually in say a CD setup. It shouldn't make your entire system sound less loud.”

Source: a reply to a poster on *Digital DJ Tips* wondering why his audio interface is not loud enough.