

# Fishbowl Discussion: Individual Preparation Reflection

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## Activity (20 points possible)

The purpose of this assignment is to help you prepare for your group's Fishbowl Discussion. As is indicated in the *Fishbowl Discussion Assignment* (see Blackboard), your group will have to choose from among five different candidates for a job, award, or scholarship. Once you have familiarized yourself with your group's assigned scenario, please write a 2-page reflection in which you explain whom you believe should be given the job, award, or scholarship. In your reflection, you must explain what led you to your decision. Be sure to include the pros and cons of each candidate with respect to how they fit the requirements described in your group's assigned scenario.

## Important Reminder

You should NOT discuss the scenario with your group members prior to your Fishbowl Discussion in class. Doing so will result in a ZERO on the *Fishbowl Discussion Assignment*. Please base your reflection on your own thoughts and opinions. This reflection paper is intended to ensure meaningful dialogue during the Fishbowl Discussion, by making sure all group members have a clear understanding of the pros and cons of each candidate. Please be aware that not everyone will continue to support their selected candidate once involved in the in-class Fishbowl Discussion—opinions often change because of such discussions.

## Submit via Blackboard

Prior to the class period in which your Fishbowl Discussion is scheduled to take place, please submit your reflection on Blackboard (as a .doc or .docx attachment).

NOTE: Submissions in any format other than .doc or .docx will result in a ZERO on this assignment.

## Scenario 1

### The School Board: Social Studies Department Instructor

You are all members of the local school board. A last minute retirement has created a sudden opening in the Social Studies Department in your district's high school which must be filled *immediately*. The candidate search was brief, and only five candidates applied for the position. Their profiles are briefly listed below. It is your task to decide which applicant to hire for the position. This teacher will have five classes of twenty-eight students each and one is an AP class. The district is trying to raise the number of students who go on to higher ranking colleges based on parent complaints that their kids are not getting as good an education as those in the next town. First establish five criteria you want the applicant to meet. Then rank order the candidates from best to worst.

X **Noah** has a college GPA of 3.0. He also has several years of teaching experience. Noah's references emphasize his concern for social activism. During his interview, Noah reveals that he is actively involved in social issues and has been arrested several times for taking part in protests. Noah has never worked more than two years for a single employer.

**Tori** has a college GPA of 3.5. She has two years of regular teaching experience at another high school. During her interview, Tori emphasizes her feminist convictions and states that she would explore those views in the classroom. She also stated that she would work to empower her female students. One of Tori's references states that she was "very outspoken."

✓ **Ethan** has a college GPA of 3.2. His references are positive. He has two years of teaching experience at another high school. Ethan has a one-year gap in his employment record. During his interview, Ethan stated that he was arrested and served time for the possession of marijuana. He also stated that he would not bring the subject up unless he was asked about it.

**Aubriana** has a college GPA of 3.1. She has one year of teaching experience at a local private religious school. Her references (all from religious organizations) are all good. During her interview, Aubriana stated that although she was a very religious person, she thought she would be able to teach Social Studies without teaching religion, although she would not hide or teach material that violated her personal values.

① **Shawn** has a college GPA of 3.1. He has just graduated from college and has no formal teaching experience, but has volunteered at a summer music camp for several years. His student teaching evaluations are general in nature, but his references attest to his nice personality. During his interview, Shawn stated that he would learn whatever he needed to know, since his dream has always been to teach.