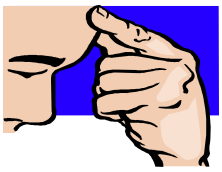
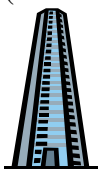
The Case of Rick Donlan



Concept: this activity demonstrates the relationship between the amount of effort spent (money and research, in this case) and the benefits gained in terms of critical thinking (illustrated here as assignment points earned)

Instructions:

1. *In your group you will be analyzing a crime to prepare a critical analysis of why it was committed.* You will need to acquire facts of the case (**knowledge**) and need to understand their meaning (**comprehension**). You will also need to generalize the knowledge (**application**) and separate the information about the case into its parts, describing how the facts are related (**analysis).** Your group will need to create an explanation for the crime (**synthesis**): why did it occur? Finally, your group will need to explain why each fact you acquire is important or unimportant to your explanation (**evaluation**).



2. *Listen to the brief story about the case of Rick Donlan, a man who climbed a tower and shot and killed multiple persons.*

3. *Your teams' objective is to prepare a critical, comprehensive analysis telling why Donlan did what he did. Select one group member to present it to class.*

You earn "assignment" points for how much money you have left and how "sophisticated" (how critically thought through) your analysis is rated.

4. *The following incomplete set of facts are given to each group*

a. Donlan killed 14 persons and wounded 11.
b. He had a protruding forehead.
c. His favorite movies were those that starred Jean Claude Van Damme
d. His favorite magazine was *Guns & Ammo.*

5. *Each team will start with $240 in order to purchase additional information from Mr. LeCloux.* You may purchase information at the following levels:

a. $25
b. $40
c. $75

<u>Note 1</u>: assume that the more the information costs the more valuable it is to your group
<u>Note 2:</u> once you purchase information it is your groups' only: you must keep it secret

6. *Each team may also consult our Myers' AP Psych text for background about the facts*

7. **Each of you should write your groups' final analysis on the back>>>>>>>>>>>>**
This demonstrates that you participated in and have knowledge of your groups' effort

Group members_____

Your analysis of the case

In accounting for the actions of Rick Donlan, you will be judged by how well you explain all the facts you have and demonstrating the six parts of critical thinking described on the front side.

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(attach extra sheet if needed)