

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

The Deadly Picnic

A Lab on Deductive Reasoning

Objective:

You will use deductive reasoning to decide who committed the murder.

Back ground Information:

Austin police recently discovered the body of a 36-year-old white male (later identified as Gaven Brooks) at the top of Mt. Bonnell about five miles outside of town. Mr. Brook's body was discovered at 10:02 pm Friday night, August 15th. He was found lying face up on a yellow, queen size sheet. According to autopsy reports, one fatal gunshot to the back of the head ended Mr. Brook's life. Scientists estimate that the death occurred at about 7:45 p.m.

As investigators scanned the crime scene, they made the following notes:

- Paper plates filled with partially eaten fried chicken, potato salad, and chocolate cake were located near Mr. Brook's body.
- An open bottle of red wine and two partially filled glasses of wine were found next to the yellow sheet.
- One of the wine glasses had a smudge of red lipstick on the rim. A recently smoked cigarette butt was found near the sheet.
- Footprints from the road to the field were those of a male, size 10, and a female, size 5. The only footprints from the field back
- to the road were those of a female, size 5.
- Car tracks of the same wheel base and tread pattern as Mr. Brook's automobile were found at the road. The car was not found at the scene.
- Later that evening Mr. Brook's car was found abandoned in an empty parking lot in downtown Austin.

Investigators believe that a female friend of Mr. Brooks was responsible for his demise. After questioning family and friends, it was discovered that the deceased was dating six different women who live in or near Austin. The women's names are Rita, Lauren, Gail, Janice, Elaine, and Peggy.

In today's lab you will answer these questions: Who was Responsible for the murder? What events surround this murder?

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Materials:

Pencil

Crime Scene Simulation

Procedure

1. Read the special notes that the police gathered during their investigation. Record this information in Data Table 1.
2. Analyze the special notes by comparing them to the police notes listed above.
3. Find the killer by ruling out the suspects based on the information you find.

Special notes:

- Janice works full time as a cosmetologist.
- Elaine and Gail are schoolteachers.
- Peggy and Elaine live together in a two-bedroom apartment in downtown Centerville.
- Gail lives in Round Rock.
- Rita lives in a country house about three miles to the west of Austin. She doesn't wear make-up.
- Elaine and Janice are very petite women - they wear size 4 blue jeans.
- Gail and Janice are nonsmokers.
- Janice works part time as a yoga teacher in Austin. She teaches at 7:30 p.m. every Friday night and has not missed a class in two years.
- Peggy is deathly allergic to grapes and doesn't know how to drive.
- Gail attends the yoga class that Janice teaches. She has not missed a Friday night class in nine months.
- Lauren is allergic to chicken and plays center for the UT women's basketball team. She is 6 feet tall.
- Rita works as a florist and her father owns a rifle range.

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Sketch of the Crime Scene:

Make sure you list all the important ingredients of a good crime scene sketch, look at page 47 of your book.

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Data Table 1	Comments on size of women	Occupation and hobbies	City or place she lives	Medical information
Rita				
Lauren				
Gail				
Janice				
Peggy				
Elaine				

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Conclusions

1. Who do you believe killed Mr. Brooks? _____

2. What information helped you identify the murderer?

3. Cite key pieces of information that caused you to believe the other five women were innocent: _____

4. How is this lab an example of deductive reasoning?
