

NAME: _____

ABANDON SHIP

Do you agree with the captain's decision? Explain his method of decision-making.

Could the other lifeboat occupants rightfully excuse themselves from any responsibility for the actions of the captain?

Later on, the captain was tried at court. If you were a jury member, how would you have punished him, if at all?

Were there any other ways this dilemma could have been resolved? Discuss.

Does any person have the right to take the life of any other person, especially an innocent? Explain and give examples.

What are some situations similar to this case?

DISCERNMENT

Below are some widely recognized elements that go into the discernment and decision-making process. Evaluate how you typically use each particular element in important decisions you make, especially on issues involving right and wrong. Use the following scale:

A—nearly always present in my decision-making process

B—usually present

C—present about half the time

D—rarely present

E—never present

- _____ 1. **Gather information.** Before acting, I research issues well.
- _____ 2. **Monitoring feelings.** I check to see if my emotions are clouding my judgment or speaking to my heart about the right course of action.
- _____ 3. **Open to growth.** I'm willing to learn new information, seek guidance from wise persons, and correct my prejudices.
- _____ 4. **Use my imagination.** When stuck in a rut, I trust my imagination to suggest alternative courses of action.
- _____ 5. **Be flexible.** I'm willing to look at the issue from another perspective, shifting from one part of the problem to another.
- _____ 6. **Hard work.** Some decisions take effort. I avoid oversimplification. I try to clear up pre-judgments. I anticipate the consequences of various actions.
- _____ 7. **Courage to be myself.** I don't always follow the crowd, pushed along by the way the wind is blowing. I can stand on my own two feet. I take responsibility for my actions because they are mine.
- _____ 8. **Learn from past experiences, mistakes, and personal weaknesses.** I know my strengths and weaknesses. I know what can slow me down, and I am willing to take steps to overcome or compensate for my limitations. When faced with a decision similar to ones I've made, I've learned from past setbacks as well as former triumphs.
- _____ 9. **Prayer.** When faced with tough decisions, I turn to the Lord for help and to the Holy Spirit for inspiration and encouragement. I recognize that I am not essentially alone and know that with God on my side I will be able to make good decisions.

- Name a difficult decision you recently had to make.

- What factor most helped you to make a decision in this case?

WHAT IS THE MOTIVE?

Here are some issues. Decide if the case is moral or not. Use this procedure:

1. Decide if the moral object is good.
2. Determine if the intention is good.
3. Finally judge if the issue is moral (M) or immoral (I). Write the appropriate letter on the lines.
Share your reasons.

____ 1. To protect property values, a neighborhood association colludes with local lenders to keep Hispanics out.

____ 2. To control costs, a company lays off a certain percentage of older workers.

____ 3. To boost everyone's grades, a math teacher curves a tough test.

____ 4. To open the state medical school to members of historically excluded minorities, the admissions office looks beyond just undergraduate grade point averages and medical school admissions scores.

____ 5. To punish their teen for lying about his whereabouts, his parents take away driving privileges for two months.

____ 6. To deter drug use and the possession of weapons, the school administration randomly searches student lockers without permission.

____ 7. To bolster farm prices, the government pays farmers hefty subsidies not to grow crops, and this in the face of the world hunger problem.

____ 8. To save for a car, a student takes a twenty-hour-per-week job fully knowing that her grades will suffer measurably.

____ 9. To relax from a tough week at school, a student smokes a few joints on Friday night.

____ 10. To beef up a résumé for college applications, a student agrees to volunteer at a hospital once a week.

NAME: _____

MY ADVISER

Write the initials of someone who . . .

_____ is a positive person, one who believes most problems can be solved.

_____ genuinely loves you, cares about your growth and well-being, and has your best interests at heart.

_____ is a prudent person in managing his or her own affairs.

_____ is a Christ-like person, kind and compassionate, and desires to be close to Jesus.

_____ has no ulterior motives when it comes to your welfare.

_____ is not afraid to tell you the truth.

_____ gives you freedom to make your own decisions, but only after encouraging you to look over all sides of an issue.

This person who embodies most of these qualities for me is _____.