

## Notes

### **Biography #1**

*Single African American woman in her sixties. Overcame adversity. Works in the field of communications. Persuasive personality. Upbeat and positive. Seeks the high road. Educational supporter. Has sponsored congressional bills in support of children. Works at being physically and spiritually fit. Encourages others. Makes strong connections with others.*

### **Biography #2**

*Married white male. Former marine instructor in advanced flight training. Requested combat duty. Won the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal. Member of the astronaut corps. Excellent physical condition. Active in environmental protection efforts and public service activities. Expert on technical and scientific matters. Respected for his work to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction.*

### **Biography #3**

*Married African American female in her fifties. Two daughters. Background in law. Raised in a blue collar home. Excelled academically. Experience in nonprofit work in the field of education and military affairs. Proponent of fitness and nutrition. Great communicator. Strong-willed and capable. Strong leadership abilities. Loyal. Excellent student, enjoys ; political experience.*

### **Biography #4**

*White female in her thirties, married. Excellent communicator. Involved in education. High aspirations. Model teacher. High achiever. Mother of two children. Risk taker. Former Girl Scout and Girl Scout Leader. Positive attitude. Taught in public schools for a number of years. Ability to motivate others. Described as being a hard worker, dedicated and focused on the task at hand.*

### **Biography #5**

*Married European woman in her forties. Raised in a family that valued education. One daughter. Studied mathematics, chemistry and physics. Known for completing tasks under difficult conditions. Described as being dignified and unassuming. Won prizes for her work in chemistry and therapeutic medicine. Dedicated to her work. Taught at the university level. Risk taker. Feels at home in a laboratory. Life-long learner.*

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p><b>Biography #6</b>  <i>Black male, married. Father of 4 children. Has vision for establishing a better world. Politically savvy. Advocate of inclusion. Steady, non-violent philosophy. Ordained minister. Self-confident. Beliefs based on those of Henry David Thoreau and Mohandas Ghandi. Strong leadership qualities. Strong aspirations. Ability to inspire others. Strong communication skills.</i></p>	
<p><b>Biography #7</b>  <i>Black male, married. One son, two daughters. Extensive military background. Has a vision for the future. Strong advocate for volunteerism. Excellent organizational skills. Strong leadership abilities. Excellent communication skills. Strong family ties. Has been awarded and honorary knighthood by Britain. Politically savvy. Described as being a patriot.</i></p>	
<p><b>Biography #8</b>  <i>White male, married. Two children. Early forties. Strong family ties. Has an ability to make things happen. Good communicator. Socially responsible. High levels of stamina. Received awards for successful completion of multiple tests of physical endurance. Dependable and described to possess great teamwork and ethics. Fierce competitor.</i></p>	
<p><b>Biography #9</b>  <i>White male, married. Devoted father of three. Family oriented. Raised by his father. Mother was political activist. Experienced with nuclear power apparatus and safety procedures. Orbital experience. Unpretentious. Sense of humor. Fraternal affiliations. Congenial. Hobbies include food critiquing.</i></p>	
<p><b>Biography #10</b>  <i>Divorced female in her thirties. Two children. Internationally educated. Strong advocate for underprivileged. Physically fit and nutrition conscious. Effective policy influencer. Positive outlook on life and family. Willingness to take risks for the greater good. Adept at being in the public eye. Leadership skills and recipient of multiple awards and accolades in her field.</i></p>	

# Choose the Crew!

## Activity Overview



This activity is designed to engage students in thinking about the logistics and psychological considerations of sending humans on a journey to Mars. The biographical sketches in this lesson are based on actual biographies of real human beings, some living, some deceased. Students should not know this information prior to choosing their Mars teams. It will be fun to share who the team members actually are, with the students, upon completion of this activity.

### Procedures:

1. Begin a discussion about Mars and human travel to the planet. Ask the students to consider what the issues might arise with sending humans on the long-distance journey. (Consider time commitment distance, emotional and psychological stability, etc...)
2. Guide the discussion to consider what type of attributes and qualifications a crew should possess to make ensure a successful mission.
3. Break students into groups to play the role of the panel of experts who will decide on the final 3 candidates who will make the journey.
4. Instruct the students to make notes about each candidate and discuss, as a team, which combination of the candidates will ensure a successful mission.
5. Rotate through the room to listen to discussion and take notes on other considerations that may not have arisen during initial conversations, i.e., gender, religion, physical attributes, age, family, sense of humor etc...
6. Ask for top three choices and record for all to see.
7. Discuss merits of each choice and **Choose the Crew!**
8. Reveal the identity of the choices.

### Answer Key:

#1 Oprah Winfrey	#6 Martin Luther King, Jr.
#2 John Glenn	#7 Colin Powell
#3 Michelle Obama	#8 Peyton Manning
#4 Christa McAuliffe	#9 Homer Simpson
#5 Marie Curie	#10 Princess Diana