

TELL THE TALE

An Exercise in Deductive Reasoning

Objective

Use deductive reasoning to answer questions regarding a purse found at a crime scene.

Background Information

The Crime Scene Investigation team has just finished examining, sampling, and photographing a bloody stairwell. What appears to be a man's arm is lying at the top of the stairs. The arm is quite large and hairy, and has a wedding ring on the ring finger.

Near the arm is a woman's purse, splattered with blood. Leading away from the arm are two sets of bloody footprints, one pair larger than the other. You and your investigative team are assigned the job of learning as much as possible about the owner of the purse from its contents.

Procedure

1. Empty the purse. Examine its contents.
2. Determine who owns the purse, the last date the owner had this purse, and recent events that occurred in the life of its owner. Record this information on the Data Table 1.

DATA TABLE 1

<i>QUESTION</i>	<i>ANSWER</i>
Name of Owner	
Last date owner had purse	
Events in last week	

Post-Lab Questions

1. Where do you think the owner of the purse lives? Why?

2. If possible, describe the owner's health. Justify your description.

3. Does the purse indicate that the owner has friends? If so, describe them.

4. Based on the evidence at the crime scene, what do you think is the relationship between the arm and the purse?

5. Write the conclusion of the story that was presented in the background information.
Be sure to keep this school appropriate!
