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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>ANSWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Owner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date owner had purse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events in last week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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   _____________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________

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

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