

Problematic Situation Directions

Purpose - After reading the first half of *Anthem* (p. 75), students will have the opportunity to place themselves in an imaginary situation that they must solve related to the novel. This strategy allows students to use problem solving skills and decision making skills, approach the text from a different perspective, and connect the text to their priorities and values.

Step 1 This problematic situation is to be used in conjunction with the reading of the climax in *Anthem* (p. 75). Students will read up to the point before Equality flees his society for the Uncharted Forest. Before students read further to find out Equality's decision, hand out copies of the problematic situation to each student (that's page 2 of this handout).

Step 2 Explain to students that they are to imagine themselves in Equality's situation. Read through the following scenario and the directions. Allow students time to think about their choices and to make decisions.

Step 3 In small groups of four, have students discuss why they chose their items and why they ranked them as they did. If using the group method, have students come up with a group decision of the items. Have students write about their choices and reasons in a journal entry.

Step 4 After completing the problematic situation activity, have students read to find out what Equality decides in the situation. As a class (group of 4), discuss the reasons behind Equality's decision. Also, compare student or group responses (depending on the choice in step 3) to Equality's response in the novel by writing the student responses next to Equality's decision.

Explain Equality's rationalization in writing. Equality's Response. He brings with him: his life's work (electricity box), paper and pencil, and a friend (Liberty ends up joining Equality after he has already fled into the Forest).

His rationalization: He needs to continue his telling of his life-story, so he brings the paper and pencil. His life's work led to his exile and it would be destroyed if he left it with his society. Liberty is needed, not only for companionship, but also to start a "new" society elsewhere.

What you will turn in.

1. After reading up to page 75, you will complete the worksheet chart that includes your ranking of the items and your group's ranking of the items.
2. In one journal entry, each individual student will explain his reasons for selecting those items and explain the ranking of those items.
3. In a second journal entry, each individual will explain the reasons for the group's reasons for those items and explain the ranking of those items.
4. After reading the entire novel, list Equality's decision and his rationalization for his choices. Write about this in a journal entry.

Each journal entry should be 1/2 to a page in length and each should be on its own sheet of paper.

Name: _____

Problematic Situation

You have been condemned for an unpardonable sin by your society. If you remain, you will be killed. Seeing no alternative, you decide to flee to the Uncharted Forest. No one has left the city and made it back alive. You do not know how long you will have to be gone, but deep down you know that you will never return. You hope that you will survive and ultimately live as you wish.

Directions: Since you only have a few moments to escape, select the 3 items from the list that you would want to bring with you on your escape. After selecting these items, rate them from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most important and 3 the least important. List your responses under the "My Choices" column. After you have made your choices individually, we will split into groups to make a "group" decision. Be prepared to defend your answers.

My Choice	Group Choice	
_____	_____	food
_____	_____	water
_____	_____	blanket
_____	_____	important documents of society
_____	_____	your life's work
_____	_____	extra change of clothes
_____	_____	first-aid kit
_____	_____	knife
_____	_____	paper and pencil
_____	_____	a friend