

7


WHAT IS FAIRNESS?

**THE HAND
YOU'RE
DEALT**

5



WHAT NORMS ARE NECESSARY FOR THIS ACTIVITY

- Share the air
 - Listen to the speaker, 1 speaker at a time
 - Speak from the I perspective
 - Respect the issue
 - Take it seriously
- 



GOAL

Today, we will explore philosopher John Rawls's "A Theory of Justice" and the idea of the "veil of ignorance" through a simulation and card game.

ACTIVITY 1: TELLING YOUR STORY

- When I tell you, look at your cards
 - you will see a job (you can choose between the 2)
 - A family situation
 - A housing situation
- Based on what you see, tell this person's story.
 - You don't need to tell their whole life story, just how they came to be in their personal situation

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

- Receptionist
- Earns \$15K per year
- 1-adult, 1-child
- Live in 1 room apartment



My name is Maggy. I work 35 hours a week as a receptionist, but I don't have healthcare because I'm not full time. I can't be full time because I have a 5 year old that started Kindergarten, and I can't afford after school childcare.

I worked hard in school, and I did a couple of years at a community college but didn't get a degree. I have chosen to raise my child alone.

FOR RENT

Sometimes I have trouble paying my rent.

WRITE YOUR STORY

Focus on the cost of living and quality of life. Answer the following questions:

How much education did you have?

Are things going well for you and your family? Do you have any worries?

What kind of benefits does your job include?
Healthcare?
Vacation days?

Share your story



**Collect cards
and story
packages**

WHAT IS THE VEIL OF IGNORANCE

The idea that we should design their system of resource distribution without knowing the particular life in with they'll be born.



If you were wealthy, you might think differently about needs than those with little.

ACTIVITY 2:

- **Here are some cards with possible benefits from the government.**
- **How do we allocate them?**
- **In small groups, design a system to figure out who should get which cards.**
 - **Does everyone get the same ones?**
 - **Do some people get no benefits?**



Pass out scenario cards.

Given your personal scenario, do you think your system is fair?

LIFE HAPPENS, SOMETIMES OUT OF OUR
CONTROL

**Distribute
Chance cards**

WHAT HAPPENED?

- Share what happened to you with your neighbor.
- How much will this affect your life?



**HOW CAN WE
SHOW
APPRECIATION
FOR THE HAND WE
WERE DEALT?**

Mechanic
\$25 K per year

1 bedroom
apartment

6- bedroom
mansion

2 adults
2 kids

1 adult

Attorney
\$200 K per
year

2 bedroom
apartment

Mobile
home

Receptionist
\$15K per year

1-adult
3 kids

Unemployed
\$0 per year

5 bedroom
house

CEO of
company
\$1.5M per year

2-adult
1 kid

CARDS