**Groupthink Activity**

**Mr. Cass**

**Sociology 2020**

**Goal**:

Students will gain an initial and better understanding of Sociology by experiencing the importance and influence of groupthink as well as the art of compromise and the power of conformity.

**Groupthink**:

Groupthink is a theory developed by psychologist **Irving Janis** that describes the process which happens to groups, and the individuals within groups, that cause them to make sometimes ill-advised or irrational decisions. Janis ultimately concludes the “individual” members conform to a “group” perspective.

**Process**: Form 3 groups of 6 and construct responses to the list of tasks in numbers 1 and 2 below in any format your group decides other than when specifically informed. **NOTE ALL INFORMATION WITHIN NUMBERS 1-3 AS WELL AS THEIR SUB-HEADINGS MUST BE SUBMITTED AND PRESENTED AT THE START OF CLASS FRIDAY**:

1. A set of rules everyone in your group must follow throughout the activity
2. A group name and:
	1. Names of group members to be displayed somewhere on paper
	2. Date of collaboration
	3. A drawing (by hand) of your symbol at the **TOP** and **CENTER** of paper
3. Once your group has finished tasks 1 and 2, reflect on the roles each one of you played within the group and respond to the following: **NOTE**: One person must write out the minutes – or information from your discussion and respond to the following:
	1. Who was the **major** decision-maker?
	2. Did the group select this person, or did they select themselves?
	3. What role or responsibility did each person take within the activity?
	4. Was there any disagreement? If so, describe the issue(s) and resolution(s). If not, explain why and how disagreement was avoided.
	5. What did you discover about your group and about the behaviors of the people involved in the activity?
	6. Why did you choose your symbol? Whose idea was it? Was their collaboration?
	7. Define “Power.”
	8. Did any of you simply give into groupthink, go along, and conform? Did anyone question the authority of the “supposed” leader of the group?

**Homework/Discussion Questions (DUE THURSDAY – TOMORROW)**: Each group member will reflect upon and prepare responses to the following questions: **NOTE**: ALL members must write or type out their OWN thoughts to EACH question below.

1. Do you believe people act differently in group settings? Why? Why not?
2. Identify one or more situations in which you went along with a group’s belief.
3. Have you ever seen examples of groupthink occurring in your own life?
	1. Describe the occurrence.

**NOTE**: Responses to **Homework/Discussion Questions** 1-3 must be submitted individually and each “group” will present their findings to the class orally at the start of class Friday.

* Choose 1-2 people to present your results.