

Parallel Situations: MV 1.0

Although you are not a ‘nerd’ nor are you the ‘teacher’s pet’, the class clown has chosen you as his target for teasing this semester. He constantly hassles you on the bus, in the halls, and prior to the start of class. Many of his taunts deal unfavourably with your family background. He has made school life miserable for you and has destroyed your reputation with other students.

You have, at times, become so angry you have considered fighting him but he is far bigger than you, has a brown belt in Kung Fu, and hangs around with the football team’s defensive linemen.

However, one day just before the mark deadline for reports, he approaches you at your locker and pleads to borrow your notes for Social Studies. He has not done his homework, you write the Unit Test that afternoon, and you must hand in your notes as well.

He is desperate. He is barely passing Social Studies and if his mark drops below 50%, he cannot play on the school basketball team – and his parents have said he will be grounded and not allowed to work at his part time job. He is saving money for a truck. His girlfriend has demanded he get some wheels of his own.

What do you decide to do?

Parallel Situations: MV 2.0

You are the eighteen year old daughter of a single dad. Your mom died when you were seven. Although you love your father, and he loves you, he is extremely misogynistic. He demands that you cook and clean house as well as going to school. He forbids you from attending school or other social events because he does not trust other students whom he feels are immoral, immature, and foolish.

He also forbids you from spending time with anyone who is not of your culture.

This is particularly awkward for you as you have met and fallen in love with George, a University Engineering student from the Bahamas, who recently graduated and has accepted a job back home in the fall. You met him in the park during your daily walk with your pet Dalmatian. You both want to get married. However, you know your father would not support a cross-cultural marriage. George would be willing to elope but he has no money until he starts work in a few months. You know your father would deny you your savings, education fund, inheritance – everything – if you even date someone he disapproves of.

You love your father and feel sorry for him because of his loneliness since your mother's death but things are getting increasingly tense at home. Then, one Friday night, your father brings home a large deposit from his business and locks it in his safe where he also keeps his personal cash, his jewelry, keys to his safety deposit box, and the family heirlooms your mother left for you. You know the combination.

On short notice, he is called out of town on business and leaves you with firm instructions to stay home, alone, for the weekend.

What do you decide to do?

Parallel Situations: MSND

You are the charming and witty teenage daughter of the Mayor of a small town on the border of the Province. You are madly in love with a young gentleman to whom you were actually engaged until recently. He has broken up with you, treats you badly, and is now in love with your best friend. He has asked her father for permission to marry her and he has agreed to the marriage. The wedding is to be held in three days.

Your friend does not love him. She is in love with another but is forbidden from marrying him because he is not considered to be 'good enough' for her. Your friend and her true love have decided to run away across the border that night to get married in secret. They confide in you because they care deeply about you and are upset that you are so heartbroken over your breakup.

You realize that all the parents will be upset and that your love, and one-time fiancé, will be crushed by her elopement. He is very proud.

What do you decide to do?

Parallel Situations: M

You are an ambitious Member of Parliament who supported the current Prime Minister during his recent leadership campaign and election. As a reward, he has appointed you to his inner cabinet and trusted you with many important duties. He needs your support because several members of your fractured party have crossed the floor to join the opposition and the Prime Minister's situation is fragile.

Your partner is thrilled with your social status and lifestyle in Ottawa and speaks often of how you will one day succeed your dear friend as Prime Minister.

One evening, after a long day on Parliament Hill, you stop to have a drink in a dark, downtown bar. You are cornered by three mysterious strangers. They show you a briefcase full of embarrassing evidence on the Prime Minister. You are shocked. You also realize that if the evidence became public it would ruin the Prime Minister's reputation and likely cost him his job.

The strangers then show that some of the evidence implicates other Senior Cabinet Ministers. You quickly realize that such evidence could be used to make them resign – or to blackmail them into supporting you.

You make no commitment to the strangers – and they do not ask for anything. But they leave the briefcase with you.

What do you decide to do?

Parallel Situations: Project Guidelines

1. Read your situation multiple times, considering the following:
 - a. Who are the various characters mentioned or implied?
 - b. What do you know about each character?
 - c. What are (some of) the possible choices for these characters to make?
 - d. What are the motivations for making these choices?
2. Brainstorm / improvise / rough out how the situation may unfold.
3. Determine a way to share the situation and its conclusion. Options include:
 - a. Reenact the scene as written and show its results.
 - b. Write a monologue or diary entry as the lead character explaining your choices.
 - c. Do a series of news broadcasts or news stories on the events of the situation, continuing to its conclusion.
 - d. Reenact the scenario and its conclusion through a series of tableaux with or without dialogue / headlines.
 - e. Have one person relate the events while others act it out (Storytelling).
 - f. Create a radio or television talk show about the situation. Have characters as guests or have them call in for advice.
 - g. Have multiple characters share their perspective of the situation and its conclusion.

Remember: You must work from the original situation. You may add suitable details but you cannot contradict the situation as presented. Strive to include as many details from the situation as possible into your work.

Parallel Situations: Sample Assessment

Group Members:

Roles / Responsibilities:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Use of the original situation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Detail | | | | | |
| • Accuracy | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 2. Organization of presentation (X2) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Flow / Pace | | | | | |
| • Structure | | | | | |
| • Detail | | | | | |
| • Mechanics of the form | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 3. Revealing of choices (X2) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Motivations? | | | | | |
| • Who / what influenced the choices? | | | | | |
| • Other considerations? Pros / Cons? | | | | | |

Notes / Feedback: