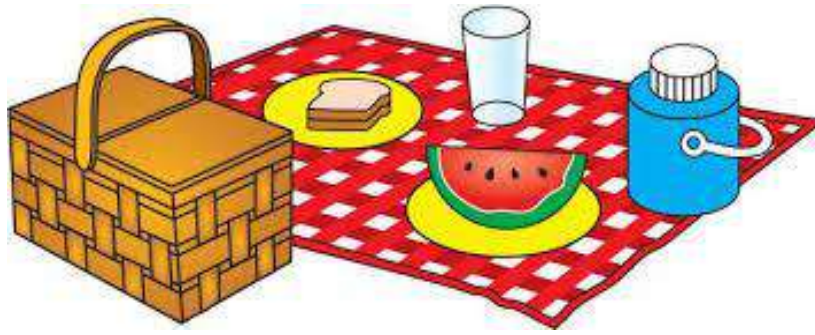


# Deadly Picnic



## Objective

You will use deductive reasoning to decide who committed the murder.

## Background Information

Centerville police discovered the body of a 36-year-old white male (later identified as Gaven Brook) in an open field of daisies about 5 miles outside of town. Mr. Brook's body was discovered at 10:02 P.M. on Thursday night, January 5, 2017. He was found lying face up on a yellow, queen-size sheet. According to the autopsy report, one fatal gunshot to the back of the head ended Mr. Brook's life. The medical examiner estimates the time of death to be at about 7:45 P.M.

As investigators scanned the crime scene, they made the following notes:

- Paper plates filled with partially eaten Kentucky Fried Chicken, potato chips, corn on the cob, and strawberry cake were located near Mr. Brook's body.
- An open bottle of red wine and two partially filled glasses of wine were found next to the yellow sheet.
- One of the wine glasses had a smudge of red lipstick on the rim.
- A recently smoked cigarette butt was found near the sheet.
- Footprints from the road to the field were those of a male, size 10, and a female, size 5. The only footprints from the field back to the road were those of a female, size 5.
- Car tracks of the same wheel base and tread pattern as Mr. Brook's automobile were found at the road. The car was not found at the scene.
- Later that evening Mr. Brook's car was found abandoned in an empty parking lot in downtown Centerville.

Investigators believe that a female friend of Mr. Brook was responsible for his demise. After questioning family and friends, it was discovered that the deceased had frequent social outings with six women who live in or near Centerville. The women's names are Rita, Lauren, Gail, Janice, Elaine, and Peggy.

In this activity, you will answer the following questions:

**Who was responsible for the murder?**

**What events surrounded this murder?**

## **Procedure**

1. After reading the background information, record some important pieces of information in **Data Table 1**.
2. Read the special notes (given below) that the police gathered during their investigation. Record this information in **Data Table 2**.
3. Special notes gathered by the police investigation:
  - ❖ Janice works full time as a cosmetologist.
  - ❖ Elaine and Gail are teachers.
  - ❖ Peggy and Elaine live together in a two-bedroom apartment in downtown Centerville.
  - ❖ Gail lives in a nearby town called Jordan.
  - ❖ Rita and Peggy never wear lipstick!
  - ❖ Rita lives in a country house about three miles to the West of Centerville.
  - ❖ Elaine and Janice are very petite women - they wear size 4 blue jeans.
  - ❖ Gail and Janice are nonsmokers.
  - ❖ Janice works part time as an aerobics instructor at a health club in Centerville. She teaches a 7:30 P.M. step aerobics class each Thursday night and has not missed a class in two years.
  - ❖ Peggy is deathly allergic to grapes.
  - ❖ Gail attends the aerobics class that Janice teaches. She has not missed a Thursday night class in 9 months.
  - ❖ Lauren works at a chemical supply house.
  - ❖ Rita's father owns a rifle range.
  - ❖ Lauren is allergic to all species of flowering plants.
  - ❖ Rita is a florist.
  - ❖ Janice and Elaine have never met.
  - ❖ Janice and Gail hate the color yellow.
  - ❖ Lauren played center for a semi-professional basketball team five years ago. She has red hair and is 6-feet, 1-inch tall.

## Analysis

1. Who do you believe killed Mr. Brook?
2. List 3 additional pieces of **physical evidence** that would have been helpful in determining Mr. Brook's killer? (Items that were NOT already found at the crime scene) Think about some of the sections of a crime lab that we discussed in class to help you answer this question.
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Write a short story (1-2 pages) that describes what you believe happened on the night of the murder. **Explain how the couple got to the murder site, why they went there, what happened while they were there, and how the murderer escaped. What do you believe was her motive?**  
(This part must be typed!)

DATA TABLE 1

QUESTION	ANSWER
Description of location where body was found.	
Approximate time and day of death.	
Weapon used to inflict fatal wound.	
Description of any footprints, tire prints, lip prints, etc... around the crime scene.	
Description of objects found at or around the crime scene. (Be very specific!)	

DATA TABLE 2

	<i>Comments on size of women.</i>	<i>Occupation and hobbies</i>	<i>City or place she lives</i>	<i>Medical Information</i>	<i>Miscellaneous Information</i>
Rita					
Lauren					
Gail					
Janice					
Peggy					
Elaine					