**COM 100: Chapter 10 Class Activity**

**Group Members Names: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

As a group you will need to make a tough and imaginary decision based on the below scenario.

**The scenario:** “You are surgeons at a large hospital. Your committee must make a very important decision. Seven patients need a heart transplant. There is only one heart donor at this time. All of the patients are eligible to receive this heart. All are physically able. And all have compatible tissue and blood typing. Which patient would you choose to receive the heart? Why?”

(FYI, most recipients of organ transplants are now managed by a nationwide network, which removes some of this decision-making pressure from the surgeons…Also, keep in mind that patients who do not receive this heart will not automatically die. Some (not all) will probably survive until another donor is available.)

Patient Waiting List

* 31 year old male; African American, brain surgeon at the height of his career; no children
* 12 year old female; Vietnamese; accomplished violinist; blind
* 40 year old male; Hispanic, teacher, 2 children
* 15 year old female; White, unmarried, 6 months pregnant
* 35 year old male; Hispanic; Roman Catholic priest
* 17 year old female; White; waitress; high school dropout; supports/cares for a brother who is severely disabled
* 38 year old female; White; AIDS researcher; no children; lesbian

Please use the structured problem-solving approach below to write-up your group’s process:

* + Identify the problem (group and individual goals):
	+ Analyze the problem (criteria for success, relevant information, etc.):
	+ Develop creative solutions (list at least 5 possible solutions):
	+ Evaluate the solutions (desirable, achievable, least serious disadvantages):
	+ Implement the plan (tasks, resources, responsibilities):
	+ Follow-up on the solution (evaluate progress, revise approach if needed):

After going through the problem-solving approach and arriving at a decision, please address the following:

1. What was your decision?
2. What decision-making method did you use and why (consensus, majority control, expert opinion, minority control, authority rule)?
3. Did the group feel they had too much or too little information (information overload vs. underload)? If so, what information was needed or not needed to increase group efficiency?
4. Reflecting on the exercise, did any group members feel pressure to conform (groupthink)? If so, how did this affect the problem-solving process?
5. How satisfied are you all with your group’s level of participation in this exercise? Was there balanced participation?