

Wawa Island: A Team-Building Activity

Until recently, Wawa Island, a small desolate island 50 miles long and 4 miles wide off the coast of Florida, was owned by a billionaire named John Johnston III. When Mr. Johnston passed away recently, he left a strange will, leaving the uninhabited island to five individuals who will move there and create a new country. Mr. Johnston left the choosing of the five people to a committee.

Your teacher will divide you into small groups of five or six. Your group is the committee of people who must choose the new citizens of Wawa Island. Read the list of applicants below and on the next sheet, and then decide which five people will move there. Make sure that each member of the group has input.

After the exercise, evaluate your team. Did you work as a group? Did anyone dominate or did everyone get an equal say?

The Wawa Island Applicants

1. **Maher Sharawi:** male, age 27. Maher currently works as a chef at a five-star restaurant. He has never been married, but did father a child when he was in his late teens.
2. **Stephanie De Luca:** female, age 21. Stephanie is a plumber by trade who does electrical work on the side. She also speaks three languages.
3. **Kesha and Patrick Shaw:** female and male, ages 37 and 40, respectively. Kesha is a medical doctor and her husband, Patrick, is a high school physical education teacher. They will only move to Wawa Island on the condition that they can go together. Patrick was diagnosed with cancer three years ago, but it is in remission.
4. **Joan Tran:** female, age 56. One of Joan's novels won the Pulitzer Prize for literature. Joan is a full-time writer who has also competed in triathlons over the past 20 years.
5. **Austin Crawford:** male, age 40. Crawford owns his own construction company. He is recently divorced and wants to start a new life.
6. **Grant Mathies:** male, age 19. Although Grant dropped out of high school at age 16, he is a computer whiz who was hired by IBM two years ago to build software. He's already a millionaire.
7. **Effy Papadopolous:** female, age 32. Effy lives in New York City but works all over the world. She's a talented businesswoman specializing in international trade.