



KNOX  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

STATE

# DA VINCI DECATHLON 2021

CELEBRATING THE ACADEMIC GIFTS OF STUDENTS  
IN YEARS 9, 10 & 11



## Creative Producers

TEAM NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

| Total | Rank |
|-------|------|
| /60   |      |

# ROLLING THE DICE

## BACKGROUND

The colloquial term 'roll the dice' means to take a chance with the understanding that you risk exposing yourself to criticism if the chance you take or the decision you make does not work out.



Generally, when you 'roll the dice', you've weighed the pros and cons, considered the positive and negatives, and make your decision based on the knowledge available to you at the time. You aren't leaving the choice to fate, you are willingly accepting the possible consequences of the situation.

But what if the consequences are unthinkable?

Take the 'Trolley Problem', a thought problem introduced by Phillpa Foot in 1967, designed to create a clash between two schools of moral thought. It is as follows:

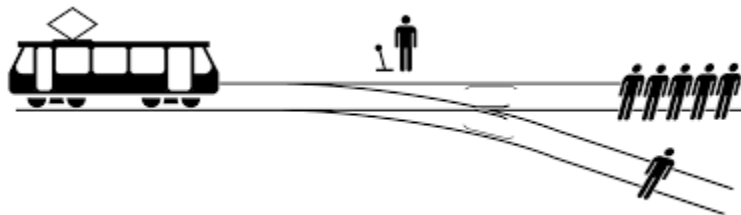
There is a runaway trolley barrelling down the railway tracks. Ahead, on the tracks, there are five people tied up and unable to move. The trolley is headed straight for them. You are standing some distance off in the train yard, next to a lever. If you pull this lever, the trolley will switch to a different set of tracks. However, you notice that there is one person on the side-track. You have two options:

Do nothing and allow the trolley to kill the five people on the main track.

Pull the lever, diverting the trolley onto the side-track where it will kill one person.

Which is the more ethical option? Or, more simply: What is the right thing to do?

N.B – 'Trolley' is an American term for a tram



## THE TASK

Imagine you are faced with the reality of the Trolley Problem. It is up to you to make the decision – do you pull the lever and kill one person to save five? Or do you choose not to interfere, taking five lives while saving one?

How would you make the decision? How do your dice roll?

You have **SIXTY SECONDS** to demonstrate HOW you come to your decision.

You will have **EIGHT MINUTES** to prepare. Please refer to the additional guidelines on the following page.

## GUIDELINES

- 1) While the decision is made by an individual alone, you must include at least ONE other perspective/interaction in your performance.
- 2) You must demonstrate that you have weighed the pros and cons of the situation. Consider the hypothetical ramifications of your decision.
- 3) You must make a choice prior to the end of your piece. There is not option to save both the single person and the five people.
- 4) Avoid simply re-enacting the situation – those who have a creative take on the representation of the decision making process will score the highest.
- 5) Your markers will give you a time warning at 45 seconds and ask you to finish promptly at 60 seconds.
- 6) Please project your voice and use all of the space – avoid standing in the back half of the room.
- 7) You may not use any props, including your paper, phone, pens etc.
- 8) Please write your team number on the front of your paper prior to performing.

## MARKING CRITERIA

| CRITERIA   | SKILFUL<br>9-10 | EFFECTIVE<br>6-8 | SOUND<br>3-5 | LIMITED<br>1-2 |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Physical – diversity of movement, use of space                       |                 |                  |              |                |
| Voice - Projection and expression                                    |                 |                  |              |                |
| Original and innovative demonstration of the decision making process |                 |                  |              |                |
| Sophisticated representation of perspective                          |                 |                  |              |                |
| Thoughtful consideration of pros/cons/hypotheticals                  |                 |                  |              |                |
| Overall flair and engagement   |                 |                  |              |                |
|  |                 |                  | <b>TOTAL</b> | /60            |

**END OF PAPER**