The Perfect Date
Small Group Problem Solving Exercise

The Task:

Plan a perfect date:

Your group task is to plan the perfect date and then to present your solution to the class in a fifteen minute informative and persuasive presentation. All group members must take part in the presentation in some fashion or another. After all the presentations are complete, the class will be asked, by secret ballot, to choose which date they would prefer. You may choose your own group's plan only if you truly believe it is the best plan. This is also an exercise in ethics!

The plan that receives the best response will be assigned the grade of "A". The next will be assigned an "A-", then a "B+", "B", "B-", and "C+". This will be 10% of your overall grade for the course, the "Group Grade." Each individual will also be assigned an "Individual Grade" based on their performance in the presentation, 15% of your overall grade for the course. After the exercise you will all write a short, concise critique of your group experience. (No longer than four, typed, double-spaced pages with 1" margins.) In this essay you will describe the norms, roles, and decision making techniques that arose in your group. You will then critique each individual as to their participation and performance in the group, ranking each person's contribution. Who contributed the most and why? Who was the next most valuable member and why? And so on until you have described each group member's contribution including yourself. This essay will be the final exam for the course. The paper is due on or before the beginning of the final exam class period.

Restrictions:

1. The date must be no longer in duration than 12 hours.

2. You only have 150 dollars to spend.

   You must give an accurate account of how the money will be spent using actual prices that you have obtained from actual vendors and services. Your group may solicit donations of goods and services, but these must be accounted for and verifiable. Your group will submit a typed budget, detailing all expenditures and donations. The name and phone number of all donators must be included in the budget. You cannot have cash or credit cards donated.

3. The date must begin by embarking from M.C.C..

   If you leave in a motor-powered vehicle, you have a full tank of gas which is already paid for (not included in the 150 dollar expense). If you will need more than a full tank of gas, the additional gas must be paid for out of the 100 dollars or donated. An estimated total mileage for a tank of gas in the specific vehicle you are using must be reported. (Example: My Kawasaki Vulcan travels 160 miles on a 4 gallon tank of gas.)