

# Project 18-2

## Equal Partners

### ● Concept

Psychologists have found that neither men nor women necessarily seek out the most attractive members of their social world. Rather, people usually seek out others whom they consider their equals on the scale of attractiveness.

### ● Materials Needed

- five different photographs of married couples (one couple per photo)
- a photograph of each person from the above group, one person in each photo (10 photos)
- 15 plain white 8" x 5" index cards
- 15 stick-on notes or small pieces of paper and tape

### ● Assembly

1. Ask five married couples to provide three recent photographs: one photo with the husband and wife together, a photo of the wife alone, and a photo of the husband alone. Select photographs with neutral, but different backgrounds. None of the photographs should be more than five years old. Do not use photos of anyone related to members of your class. If you cannot acquire the photos from married couples you know, use photos from wedding announcements in your local newspaper.
2. Mount the photos on plain white 8" x 5" index cards. Mark the back of all three cards from each couple with the same symbol. Use circles to identify all three pictures of one couple, diamonds for another couple, and squares, triangles, and filled circles, respectively for the remaining couples. Use paper and tape or a stick-on note to cover the symbol on the back of each card.
3. Shuffle all of the wife cards together and randomly assign each card a letter from A to E. Write the letter on the face of the card next to the photo. Place the letter in the same place on each card. Shuffle all of the husband cards together and randomly assign each card a letter from F to J. Write the letter on the face of the card next to the photo. Place the letter in the same place on each card.

### ● Procedure

1. Ask four members of your class to participate in this project.
2. Invite the first participant to sit across from you at a table or desk.
3. Place the photographs in A-J order in a single stack in front of the participant. Beginning with the photograph marked with the letter A, ask the participant to rank the attractiveness of the person in the photo using a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being not attractive and 10 being extremely attractive. (Do not provide any additional information.) Record the participant's response on the data sheet and turn the photograph face down.
4. Repeat Step 2 for photographs B through J.
5. Place all 10 photos on the table and tell the participant that each of the women is married to one of the men. Ask the participant to try to match up the couples.
6. Use the data sheet to indicate which, if any, of the couples are correctly paired.

7. Place all 15 photos on the table and show the participant how the couples pair up in real life. Thank the participant for helping you.
8. Repeat Steps 1 through 6 with at least three other participants.
9. DO NOT reveal any information about the attractiveness rankings to the couples who provided the pictures. If you like, you can share how many participants were able to match the correct husbands and wives.

### Things to Observe

Directions: Answer the following questions in the space provided.

- Did the participant pair the lowest ranking female with the lowest ranking male?

---

---

- Did the participant pair the highest ranking female with the highest ranking male?

---

---

- How many couples was the participant able to match up?

---

---

### Analyzing the Results

Directions: Answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. How frequently did the participants pair the lowest ranking female with the lowest ranking male?

---

---

2. How frequently did the participants pair the highest ranking female with the highest ranking male?

---

---

3. Based on participant rankings, is there any evidence that these couples sought out their equals?

---

---

---

**Data Sheet**

Directions: Use this sheet to record the data gathered during your interviews with each participant.

Participant 1		Participant 2		Participant 3		Participant 4	
Females	Rank 1-10	Females	Rank 1-10	Females	Rank 1-10	Females	Rank 1-10
A	_____	A	_____	A	_____	A	_____
B	_____	B	_____	B	_____	B	_____
C	_____	C	_____	C	_____	C	_____
D	_____	D	_____	D	_____	D	_____
E	_____	E	_____	E	_____	E	_____

Participant 1		Participant 2		Participant 3		Participant 4	
Males	Rank 1-10	Males	Rank 1-10	Males	Rank 1-10	Males	Rank 1-10
F	_____	F	_____	F	_____	F	_____
G	_____	G	_____	G	_____	G	_____
H	_____	H	_____	H	_____	H	_____
I	_____	I	_____	I	_____	I	_____
J	_____	J	_____	J	_____	J	_____

Couples	Correct Pair	Couples	Correct Pair	Couples	Correct Pair	Couples	Correct Pair
○	yes no	○	yes no	○	yes no	○	yes no
◇	yes no	◇	yes no	◇	yes no	◇	yes no
□	yes no	□	yes no	□	yes no	□	yes no
△	yes no	△	yes no	△	yes no	△	yes no
●	yes no	●	yes no	●	yes no	●	yes no

Copyright © by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.