Group Crime Solving Activity

Activity: Each one of you will receive a piece of paper with information pertaining to a crime. The object of the activity is to solve the investigation. Some of the information will be shared information, which is common to multiple or all members. However, some of the information will be unshared information, or information that is unique to particular members before discussion of the information. Leveraging communication skills, leadership, and interpersonal relationships, try to arrive at the proper conclusion. Before discussing information as a group, write which of the three suspects you think committed the crime based on the information in the "basic situation" and on your own information.

Basic Situation: At the Cleveland Art Museum, a few weeks ago, someone stole a valuable painting. The painting was a panel of one of Monet's Water Lilies. Many experts think it is one of the most valuable paintings in the museum. Framed, the painting is roughly 7x10ft. The first suspect is Janis, age 50, who leads an art class for the public. The second suspect is Travis, age 36, a security consultant for an outside corporation who helped the museum set up security. The third suspect, Carson, age 20, is a kinesiology student at Cleveland State.

The videos from the security room, all of them, were deleted. Police have determined that the painting was most likely stolen by hand, without any extra tools. This means that the criminal probably carried the painting out by hand. Somehow, all the painting's sensors were turned off right before the crime. It would have taken no more than 4 minutes and 30 seconds for the criminal to have successfully stolen the painting. Any time longer than that, the power would have turned on, and the painting's sensors would have triggered. To figure out who stole the painting, it may be necessary to consider how they would have stolen it.

Information: *Each member will receive this full sheet of paper. The separate information pieces will be copied and pasted into this space.*

Before discussion, I thought _____ committed the crime.

After discussion, I think _____ committed the crime.

Information 1: Travis, was a security consultant for years at Amazon's HQ before he was fired for using the security technology to spy on his ex-wife. Travis also lives in Detroit, but is the only suspect with the capability to turn off the buildings security. Carson has an ongoing record of shoplifting, some of the crimes being as recent as three months ago.

Information 2: Carson has an ongoing record of shoplifting, the most expensive item being a Wii-U with the game *Smash Bros*. Travis has recently undergone surgery and has been forced to give up his favorite hobby: running. The day of the robbery, the city of Cleveland experienced a mass, citywide thunderstorm.

Information 3: Carson is on the baseball team. The day the painting was stolen, he was at the museum and a woman reported him for looking suspicious. Carson is the son of the long-time museum curator, Donnie. Carson has attended The Grace Brethren Church of Cleveland on a regular basis for the past three years.

Information 4: Janis's art class draws famous paintings in the museum. She had fourteen students in the class. The day before the painting was stolen, her class drew Monet's *Water Lilies*. She has keys to most rooms of the building, including the one with the painting. After work, she enjoys going to the bar.

Information 5: Janis does not has keys to the camera room where the videos were deleted. Only the security workers have access to the camera room. Carson is an art minor at CSU and sometimes attends an art class that is taught at the museum. He also has a troubled past and no father figure in his life, though he is also an excellent student.

Information 6: The cameras run on a backup power source and were not affected by the power turning off. Carson has an ongoing record of shoplifting, the most expensive item being a Wii-U. Janis is going through a divorce and she might have to declare bankruptcy. When Travis initially set up the building's security system, he installed the sensors and arranged for the security to have large trucks to patrol the museums outside exhibits, as well as to help the transfers of paintings between museums.

Information 7: There is no evidence currently found on how Carson would have deleted the videos or bypassed security. Travis is the only person with the capability to turn off the buildings security. Travis was a security consultant for years at Amazon's HQ before he was fired for using the security technology to spy on his ex-wife.

Information 8: Janis's son, a former Notre Dame linebacker, has worked for the museum's security for five years now. Carson is a star on the baseball team at CSU. Carson has a troubled

past and no father figure in his life. Carson started to attend the museum more frequently than usual in the past month. He also owns a white F150.

Each member will come up with different results on their own before discussing information with the group. There should be multiple answers for each suspect. However, in the end we are to inform them that the Cleveland Police Department determined that the criminal was indeed Janis. Janis was able to perform the crime with the help of her son. Her getaway car is the car from security and the storm turns off the power for a moment, allowing the sensors to not go off.

Activity Follow Up: Questions Guide for Speakers

1) What did you think of this activity in relation to needing to rely on shared information?
2) Did you think it was easy or hard? And how did your approach to the activity dictate this?
3) How did your answers change after hearing the group discussion and why did it change this way?
4) Was there any shared information that was not in the "Basic Situation" section?
5) Did any problems arise? If yes, what would you have done differently. If not, what could have gone wrong?
6) How would adding a time restraint have changed how you shared the information? How would you have dealt with these issues?
7) Was all of the information relevant to solving the crime? If not, what information was irrelevant. What implications do you think this has for information sharing?