

# Running the "Sugar Bowl" Negotiation Exercise

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## **Sugar Bowl Rationale**

- Quick and clear
  - 15-20 minute time frame
  - Able to be used in very large groups
  - Little administrative oversight needed



- Some familiarity, but rare to find any real expertise... no big advantages within the group
- Fun... including a readily available prop is always enjoyable
- Broad appeal
  - Used with professionals, mid-level managers, retirees, etc.
- Make participants more malleable
  - Unfreeze -> Change -> Refreeze
- Provide a rich base from which a variety of concepts and issues can be explored





## Simulation: "Sugar Bowl"

- Preparation: 5 minutes
- Negotiation: 10 minutes



#### TIPS:

- Do your best with the info you're given
- Embellish only where needed
- Lying happens, no honesty requirement!
- Submit your result, then DO NOT DISCUSS



## **Logistics Notes:**

- Typically partner via proximity
- Someone you don't know
- Encourage people to scatter
  - Out of earshot
- Odd Number of People?
  - Discourage multiple trios
  - Partner or friend of the buyer
- Deliverable: Bill of Sale or Receipt



## **Sugar Bowl Debrief**

## Opening Questions:

- How many reached an agreement? No deal?
- Grab a Sugar Bowl...
  - Identify a Seller...
    - Excited to make the sale?
    - How'd you come to own this piece? (note the blem)
  - Buyers...
    - Excited about your purchase?
    - What caught your eye about this bowl? (this is the bowl)
- Segue into a simple map...



# "Sugar Bowl" Valuations...

#### **ANTIQUES SELLER:**

#### **ANTIQUES BUYER:**



# "Sugar Bowl" Valuations...

#### **ANTIQUES SELLER:**

#### **ANTIQUES BUYER:**

HOPE = \$300-1200?

"As much as I can"

HOPE = \$300 - <\$2500 "As little as I can"

LIMIT = \$250-350

LIMIT = \$3000

ALT = Wait...

ALT = Sell as incomplete, or hold for future



## Sugar Bowl "Bargaining Zone"



"Bargaining Zone":
Your Deal:



## Sugar Bowl: Some potential lessons

## Preparation

- Key elements
- Myopia vs. Perspective Taking

### Bargaining Processes

- Distributive Elements in Phases
  - Opening Statements
  - First Offers
  - Concessions
  - Signalling Commitment
  - Closing Statements

#### Satisfaction

- Disconnect: Actual vs. Perceived performance
- Expectations Drive Evaluations



## **Sugar Bowl & Integrative Potential**

- "I" version being released by DRRC in early 2013
- Parallel to the original, with integrative potential
- Changes and the Creative Opportunity:
  - Buyer more purely motivated by the \$\$
  - Seller of the Sugar Bowl has had several people express interest in purchasing a complete set
  - One regular client has pledged \$12K plus fees for a complete set in "Superior" condition, resulting in an aggressive, but fruitless, search
  - Includes information confirming all pieces rated "Superior", and defines seller's normal Locator Fee arrangements (10-30% w/ minimum)
  - Offers significant additional value (\$3-4K) over what the Buyer hopes to obtain at auction (\$8-8500)
    - How/when do we discover this opportunity?
    - How does this get distributed??

#### Early piloting suggests...

- 10-20% of pairs capture the opportunity
- Trend toward partnering/splitting the risk and the added value
- These pairs are very proud/vocal, and need to be carefully managed during the debrief to reveal when you want the concept to emerge
- Very interesting "Negotiator's Dilemma" discussions around sharing information



## What questions, comments...?