Academic Writing
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"Adopt or Not?" Classroom Activity

Adopt or Not?
You and your partner work for an animal shelter and just received an adoption application!
Someone is interested in adopting one of your dogs. Now you have to decide if the person
should be able to adopt or not.

Previous Applicants
Below are four previous applications. Two were **accepted** and two were **rejected**. Based on
these four applications, determine if your new applicant can adopt a dog or not.

Accepted Applications

Person 1
How many people live in your home? **4**
Do any children live in the house? If so, what are their ages? **2 children, 7 years old and 10 years
old**
Are there any other pets in the house? If so, what pets? **1 pet, Cat**
If there is another dog in the house, do they have experience living or interacting often with another
dog? **Not applicable**
How many hours do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a day? **4**
How many days do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a week? **5**
Will there be anyone home during the day to let the dog out or play with the dog? **Yes**
Are there any family members whose health may be affected by the dog? **Yes (allergies)**
Do you own or rent your property? **Own**
Do you live in a house or an apartment? **House**
Is there a backyard or area on your property for the dog to run freely? **Yes**
If there is a backyard, is it fully fenced in? **Yes**
Do you have a trusted veterinarian in your location? **Yes**
Are there dog parks in your location? **Yes**
Will you buy your dog pet insurance? **Yes**

Person 2
How many people live in your home? **2**
Do any children live in the house? If so, what are their ages? **0 children**
Are there any other pets in the house? If so, what pets? **1, Dog**
If there is another dog in the house, do they have experience living or interacting often with another
dog? **Yes**
How many hours do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a day? **8**

How many days do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a week? **5**

Will there be anyone home during the day to let the dog out or play with the dog? **Yes, dogwalker**

Are there any family members whose health may be affected by the dog? **No**

Do you own or rent your property? **Own**

Do you live in a house or an apartment? **Apartment**

Is there a backyard or area on your property for the dog to run freely? **Yes**

If there is a backyard, is it fully fenced in? **Yes**

Do you have a trusted veterinarian in your location? **Yes**

Are there dog parks in your location? **Yes**

Will you buy your dog pet insurance? **No**

Rejected Applications

Person 3
How many people live in your home? **1**

Do any children live in the house? If so, what are their ages? **0 children**

Are there any other pets in the house? If so, what pets? **0 pets**

If there is another dog in the house, do they have experience living or interacting often with another dog? **Not applicable**

How many hours do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a day? **8**

How many days do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a week? **5**

Will there be anyone home during the day to let the dog out or play with the dog? **No**

Are there any family members whose health may be affected by the dog? **No**

Do you own or rent your property? **Own**

Do you live in a house or an apartment? **Apartment**

Is there a backyard or area on your property for the dog to run freely? **No**

If there is a backyard, is it fully fenced in? **Not applicable**

Do you have a trusted veterinarian in your location? **Yes**

Are there dog parks in your location? **Yes**

Will you buy your dog pet insurance? **No**

Person 4
How many people live in your home? **3**

Do any children live in the house? If so, what are their ages? **1 child, 8 years old**

Are there any other pets in the house? If so, what pets? **0 pets**

If there is another dog in the house, do they have experience living or interacting often with another dog? **Not applicable**

How many hours do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a day? **8**

How many days do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a week? **5**

Will there be anyone home during the day to let the dog out or play with the dog? **No**

Are there any family members whose health may be affected by the dog? **No**

Do you own or rent your property? **Rent**
Do you live in a house or an apartment? **House**
Is there a backyard or area on your property for the dog to run freely? **Yes**
If there is a backyard, is it fully fenced in? **No**
Do you have a trusted veterinarian in your location? **Yes**
Are there dog parks in your location? **Yes**
Will you buy your dog pet insurance? **No**

New Application
How many people live in your home? **2**
Do any children live in the house? If so, what are their ages? **0 children**
Are there any other pets in the house? If so, what pets? **1 pet, Lizard**
If there is another dog in the house, do they have experience living or interacting often with another dog? **Not applicable**
How many hours do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a day? **6**
How many days do the main people who will be taking care of the dog work a week? **5**
Will there be anyone home during the day to let the dog out or play with the dog? **Yes**
Are there any family members whose health may be affected by the dog? **Yes (allergies)**
Do you own or rent your property? **Rent**
Do you live in a house or an apartment? **Apartment**
Is there a backyard or area on your property for the dog to run freely? **No**
If there is a backyard, is it fully fenced in? **No**
Do you have a trusted veterinarian in your location? **Yes**
Are there dog parks in your location? **Yes**
Will you buy your dog pet insurance? **Yes**

Do you **ACCEPT** or **REJECT** their application? Why?

What questions from the application did you weigh more? Why?

What might be some implicit biases in this application?