

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A MAN awakens from a deep slumber with one eye shut, in a hospital bed.

MAN
Where am I?

DR. SMITH
Hello, my name is Doctor Smith. Do you remember your name?

MAN
Yes, of course. My name is PHINEAS GAGE.

DR. SMITH
And what do you last remember?

PHINEAS
Well, I was workin' on a railroad track when there was a big boom and then everything went dark.

DR. SMITH
Very good. PHINEAS, unfortunately due to an explosion, a metal rod ran straight through your skull.

PHINEAS grips onto something behind his head and his one eye open widens. He slowly turns 90 degrees, revealing a giant rod in his brain.

PHINEAS
WHAT THE FUCK!

DR. SMITH
Now, now. Calm down. Our files said that you were a mild-mannered and kind individual.

PHINEAS
There is a POLE in my BRAIN. Why would I calm down?

DR. SMITH
Wow. This is truly fascinating. It's as if this event changed your personality. Can we get a psychologist in here?

PHINEAS
What? No. Get me a lawyer.
(MORE)

PHINEAS (CONT'D)
 God, I knew my shitty job would be
 the end of me. OSHA better have a
 field day.

A PSYCHOLOGIST strides in.

DR. CRAWFORD
 Hello, my name is DR. CRAWFORD

PHINEAS
 Get the fuck out of here. Look,
 DOC

DR. CRAWFORD
 Yes?

PHINEAS
 Not you! The real one.

DR. CRAWFORD
 Excuse me. I have my PHD and went
 to --

PHINEAS
 Am I going to die???

CRAWFORD writes in his notebook.

CRAWFORD
 (to self)
 Interesting. The subject
 demonstrates severe paranoia.

PHINEAS
 Severe paranoia? There is a

PHINEAS	SMITH & CRAWFORD
POLE in my BRAIN	Pole in your brain

DOCTOR
 We know.

CRAWFORD
 (writing in his notebook)
 The subject exhibits repetitive
 and rude verbalizations. Perhaps a
 lesion in his brain's left
 hemisphere.

PHINEAS
 Look. Am I not allowed to be upset
 that there is a

PHINEAS	SMITH & CRAWFORD
Pole in my brain	Pole in your brain

CRAWFORD

It's not characteristic of you.
Think about it. You weren't angry
about the pole in your brain
before the incident.

PHINEAS

Before the incident. Well, yes, I
wasn't angry about the

PHINEAS	SMITH & CRAWFORD
Pole in my brain	Pole in your brain

PHINEAS

before there was a

PHINEAS	SMITH & CRAWFORD
Pole in my brain.	Pole in your brain

PHINEAS

Why do you think that is?

CRAWFORD writes in his notebook.

CRAWFORD

(to self)

The subject lacks basic logical
awareness without assistance.

PHINEAS

It was a rhetorical question.

CRAWFORD writes in his notebook.

CRAWFORD

(to self)

The subject makes up words.

BLACKOUT