*Values*

These are beliefs that the West have upheld, as revealed by surveys.

These constitute the core of what is considered important and what should be the basis of our relationships as we interact with each other.

These beliefs are also reflected in Western literature and in the media.

1. *Action is good.* Change can be induced through individual or group action. "Getting things done" is important. Problems, once identified, can be solved.
2. *One’s environment can be controlled.* Nature is to be conquered and exploited to suit one's need.
3. *Equal opportunities.* We tend to value providing everyone with the opportunity to get ahead, although everyone is not expected to end up in the same situation. We do not believe that everyone should have the same amount of wealth or education, but we do believe that the opportunity to acquire these things should be available equally to all.
4. *The material is more real than the spiritual.* The concrete and observable are relevant. Material comfort and convenience are emphasized.
5. *A person's success is self-made.* Social status accrues to one who succeeds on his own effort and merit in the face of competition.
6. *The individual is the keystone of society.* Individual responsibility is important and "the greatest good for the greatest number" leads to a successful society. Minority rights must be protected.
7. *We are moral creature.* Personal conduct can be evaluated in universal moral terms. Clear-cut ethical distinctions can be made that affect all people equally.
8. *Time is money.* Time is a material thing. It should be actively mastered or manipulated to one's advantage.
9. *The world is rational.* Scientific reasoning is the unquestioned way of understanding the physical world.
10. *Racism and group superiority.* Although expressing a commitment to the values of equality and freedom, we often link personal worth to membership in particular social categories based on ethnicity, race, social class, or sex.

Scenario: Who is at fault?

In a house is a young woman married to a man who works very hard. She feels neglected. When her husband has gone off on still another trip, the young wife meets an attractive man who invites her to his house. She spends the night and at dawn she leaves, knowing her husband is coming back.

Alas! The bridge is blocked by a madman who kills everyone who comes near him. The young wife follows the river and meets the ferryman but he demands $10 to take her over to the other side. The young wife has no money. She runs back to her lover and asks for the $10, but he refuses. The woman then remembers a platonic friend who lives nearby. She runs to him, explains her plight, and asks for the money, but the friend refuses to help; she has disillusioned her friend with her conduct. Her only choice is to go by the bridge in spite of the danger, and the madman kills her.

**DISCUSS**

1. In what order do you hold the principals (woman, husband, lover, madman, ferryman, and friend) responsible for the woman’s death? Create a list of reasons as to who you feel is responsible for her death.
2. In groups of 3 arrive at some consensus regarding your values governing such topics as marital fidelity, friendship, capitalism, etc.

How might people of different ages, genders, and cultures rank the participants differently, and why.