Jordan Punishment (READ TO GROUP AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SESSION)

Professor Memory, who was in charge of the Learning and Memory Laboratory at Forget Me Not College, was found dead in the laboratory last Tuesday night. It seems that Professor Memory was poisoned with a toxic level of rat poison. Professor Anterograde had made the call to the police on Wednesday morning around 6am to report the death. When Professor Anterograde called the professor sounded in shock and seemed to have a difficult time keeping track of what the professor was saying. Investigator Jordan Punishment is currently investigating the case and a review of the sign in sheet at the front desk of the building that houses the laboratory indicates that five other people were in the building around the time that the murder is supposed to have happened. Use what you know about each of your assigned characters to answer questions posed to you by Jordan Punishment about the normal day to day activities of the laboratory and specifically the events of last Tuesday night.

Sam Bell (Graduate Student)

You and Toni have gotten quite close during your work in the laboratory. Both of you hope to continue working in the field and you have discussed possibly conducted experiments together. Toni has been working with Professor Anterograde for approximately three months now. The change to Professor Anterograde’s research seemed sudden three months ago but Toni has seemed happier since that time, with the exception of how she dealt with Professor Memory. For as long as you have worked in the lab, you have known that Professor Anterograde hated Professor Memory. Professor Anterograde has even gone so far as to start rumors that Professor Memory had killed the previous director in order to take the director job.

**If asked about Toni Attention’s behavior in the laboratory**: You discuss that usually Toni is bright, organized, and upbeat but you have noticed on a few occasions that Toni appears confused and erratic. On one occasion you have witnessed Toni taking some kind of prescription medication and when you asked about it Toni mumbled something about not wanting to upset Professor Memory again. Toni seemed irritated about this and you did not ask any further.

**If asked what kind of research you do**: You currently are conducting research working with classical conditioning of rats. You use a bell to direct the rats through a maze. When the rat turns its head in the correct direction you sound a bell. Over a series of trials the rat learns to make correct moves through the maze by following the sounding of the bells. Prior to teaching the rat to run the maze with the sound of the bell you paired the sound of the bell with food. You have now been able to remove the unconditioned stimulus of the food and use only the conditioned stimulus to manage rat behavior.

**If asked where you were the night of the murder**: You discuss that you were in the lab that night working on a maze with some of your rats.

**If asked who else was in the lab** you state that you remember seeing Dr. Memory in the laboratory, Professor Skinner, Dr. Anterograde, Dr. Retrograde, and Toni Attention. You thought it was strange that Professor Skinner was in the laboratory as you rarely saw Professor Skinner make an appearance, but the professor did not stay long. You saw the professor speaking with Dr. Anterograde and Toni Attention that night. When the professor was speaking to Dr. Anterograde you could see that the conversation was tense. When the professor was speaking to Toni you could see that Toni at first appeared surprised but at the end of the conversation, Toni appeared somewhat sad but the professor hugged her and then she seemed relieved. You had not seen Professor Skinner speak to Dr. Memory or Dr. Retrograde. Shortly after the conversations Professor Skinner left approximately at 7:30pm.

**If asked about the rest of the evening the night of the murder**: The rest of the evening went as usual for our Tuesday night activities. All of the professionals working in the lab on their specific projects until 8pm. At 8pm, the group took a break for dinner. It was customary that the group ordered pizza. Dr. Anterograde served the Pizza that evening as Dr. Anterograde often did.

Investigator Jordan Punishment

You have been working with the Skinner City Police Department since you started your career as a police officer. Even more than that you are a native of Skinner City and even took an introductory psychology course at the Forget Me Not College of Technology as part of your criminal justice major. You will need to remember everything you learned in that course about memory and learning in order to solve this case.

When you were a student at the College the laboratory was run by Albus Skinner. Albus was a well-liked professor who was conducting research in the effects of rat poison on the memory of rats.

Nothing about Albus Skinner at the time seemed unusual but you seem to remember that shortly after you graduated that you had seen his obituary in the local newspaper. You didn’t attend the funeral because you had only had him for the one class and you were on your way out of town to start you police academy classes the day of the funeral. You had driven by the funeral home that day and saw that the parking lot was overflowing with mourners. You probably wouldn’t have remembered this detail at all had a young girl not practically walked out in front of your car as she was crossing the street to the funeral home. You recognized her because she had sat in the back of the classroom during Albus Skinner’s lectures. He had mentioned that she was his 5 year old niece and in his care after the passing of her parents in a car accident when she was only 2 years old. Naturally being traumatized that young meant that the child had some attachment difficulties and so Albus made sure that the child spent every minute after school with him, even though that meant bringing her to the classroom during his teaching. You wondered on the day of the funeral why no one was watching the child and making sure she didn’t run into the street.

You should ask questions about the night of the murder, what everyone saw, what they think of each of the other suspects, what their work entails, and general questions to try to understand the means and motivation for the murder.

Professor Skinner (Dean of the College)

Professor Skinner is the Dean of the College at the Forget Me Not College of Technology. Professor Skinner’s family have lived in Skinner City for generations and in fact a descendant of Professor Skinner was a founder of the town. The Skinner family is both respected and resented in the town. While the family has experienced success in a number of pursuits for the town, many town members believe that they engage in nepotism and only offer promotions to their relatives. You suppose this is likely to happen in any small town where many members of founding families continue to reside and work in the town. You are related to Albus Skinner who was the director of the laboratory prior to Professor Memory. As the Dean, you also chose Albus Skinner’s replacement and promoted Professor Memory to director of the laboratory after Albus’s death. Many people were unhappy with your decision. First of all, Professor Max Anterograde. Professor Anterograde felt that the director job belonged to him/her. She/he was on leave at the time of Albus’s death and as such was ineligible for the position according to the grant regulations. Because Rory Memory was listed on the grant application with Albus Skinner the University would not have to give up the funding if Rory Memory was promoted to director. However, the university could not have two grants for the same research and so when Professor Anterograde returned to work, he/she had to pursue another line of research. You are fatigued from all the department fighting about these decisions. Rumors have been flying for years that Albus Skinner was murdered. Some (mainly Anterograde) have even suggested that Professor Memory murdered Albus for the director position. You find this suggestion ridiculous because Albus’s death was investigated and he had a heart attack. Many murmured that his heart attack was caused by exposure to the rat poison he used in his research. Albus had of course ignored warnings about exposure to rat poison as he believed he was genetically immune to poison. As you and Albus were related, you too know the family legend of working as royal food tasters due to an immunity to poison. Whether or not this legend is true you don’t know but you always thought Albus took unnecessary risks and after his death you implemented safety protocols in the lab that mandated everyone to wear gloves while working with the rat poison.

Approximately a month ago you had a rat infestation in the historic hotel and Skinner City museum and you utilized rat poison to rid the hotel of the rats. While at the museum you discovered that you and Toni Attention share a common ancestor.

**If asked about the Night of the Murder:** You had come into the lab to speak to Professor Anterograde and Toni Attention, as Professor Memory had discussed with you that Toni was seemingly more disrespectful since Toni has been working with Anterograde. Professor Memory felt that Toni had potential but that Toni has been making some disorganization mistakes lately and that working with Anterograde seemed to make it worse. I went in and spoke with Anterograde first. I explained to Anterograde that despite the personal feelings regarding Memory that it was imperative that everyone could get along. I had the usual pushback from Anterograde but ultimately Anterograde agreed with me to work cooperatively with Memory and to set a good example for Toni. I took a different approach with Toni. I realized from my work at the museum that Toni was actually Albus Skinner’s niece. I told her that I was sorry for the loss of her uncle. I asked if there was anything that I could do to help. Toni stated that luckily she had a lot of fond memories of her parents and her uncle to keep her company. She stated that she planned on trying to honor her uncle by exploring his line of research soon. Our conversation

Professor Skinner (Dean of the College) Page 2

was cut a bit short as Toni had to go down to the desk and meet the pizza delivery person. I gave Toni and hug and wished her the best. I felt that I had accomplished what I had set out to do and so I went to get my jacket from my office and headed downstairs. I had expected to see Toni on the way out and mention that she should reach out to professor Memory soon in order to discuss working on her uncle’s research but I guess I missed her on the way out and so I figured I would help to connect Toni and Memory the following day. Sadly, that never happened.

Ghost of the Deceased: Professor Memory

Director in charge of the Learning and Memory Laboratory at Forget Me Not College of Technology.

You have been working at the College for approximately 20 years. You started off as a graduate student working in the laboratory under the direction of Albus Skinner. As a graduate student your work was only mediocre until you and Albus co-authored a paper about the impact of rat poison on the memory centers of rats.

You became the Director after the death of Albus Skinner. The transition was difficult because Albus was very well-liked and his death was considered to be a tragedy. However, it seemed that many people seemed to express their grief by arguing with you. This pattern continued and it became your habit such that now it seems that you have argued with everyone in the lab. Everyone seems to think that you are (or rather were) difficult to get along with. You however, didn’t care if you were well-liked or not. You buried (forgive the pun) yourself in your work as you had to simply to keep up with the pace needed for publication.

**If asked about the night of the murder**: You had seen everyone in the lab that night. You felt fine. It was only moderately uncomfortable because Professor Skinner had stopped in at your request. You had not known the Professor Skinner would be stopping by that evening but you had spoken to the Professor about Toni Attentions poor performance. You also told the Professor that you felt that Dr. Anterograde was fueling Toni’s poor attitude toward you because since they had started working together Toni seemed more disrespectful of you and less organized. You told Professor Skinner that Toni seemed to take too many breaks and that every time you went into the break room to get a cup of tea, that Toni was already in the break room. You assumed Professor Skinner was there that night to speak to Professor Anterogrde and Toni about their unprofessional behavior. After Professor Skinner left you met with all the others to eat pizza and hoped that things would be better.

Around 8:20pm, you started to feel sick. You left the lab to go the bathroom and vomit. When you returned to your work station you noticed that someone had brought you a cup of tea. This was a nice gesture but you are unsure who brought you the tea. At 9pm, the others in the lab were finishing up their work and by 9:30pm everyone had left. As usual, I was the last one to leave so it was not uncommon for me to stay until 10pm or even 11pm. I’m not sure what happened after everyone else left, I remember feeling very ill and falling into some of the cages. I attempted to get to the emergency phone but I don’t know if I made it or not.

Graduate Student Toni Attention

You are a bright student with a hopeful future. Unfortunately since you were a child you have struggled with ADHD. Usually the ADHD is of little consequence to you but approximately three months ago, you forgot to take your medication and were somewhat disorganized, erratic, and forgetful. On this occasion you forgot to close the cages for the rats in the laboratory. That evening all the rats ran about the laboratory freely and it was impossible to tell the impact of this. Some rats may have ran through mazes, bred with other rats, eaten the reinforcement treats and who knows what else. This mistake was discovered by Professor Memory. Professor Memory was furious about the mistake as all of the rats had to be destroyed and all the research occurring in the lab would be set back. Professor Memory told you to destroy the animals yourself so that you would not make these ridiculous mistakes in the future. You were devastated about the mistake and sure it would ruin your career when it was noted in your file. After all you already had several reports in your file about failing to follow laboratory safety procedures. You often forgot to wear your gloves also due to your ADHD. However, your luck actually changed as a result of the cage accident. After you had destroyed the rats and were noticeably upset in the laboratory, Professor Anterograde had come across you. In your emotional state you disclosed to Professor Anterograde about your diagnosis of ADHD, a diagnosis you had tried to keep hidden from others as you didn’t want this to impact your chances of career advancement. Professor Anterograde instead of judging you, actually offered you a job working on the selective attention research projects. In addition, Professor Anterograde even promised not to disclose your ADHD to anyone in the laboratory.

**If asked about the night of the murder:** You were in the lab working as usual. Professor Skinner came in to speak to you. Professor Skinner had stated that when in the town museum that he/she had discovered that Albus Skinner was your uncle. Skinner asked if it was difficult for you to grow up after losing your parents and then your uncle. You told him that luckily you had many fond memories of your life with your parents and uncle including birthdays, family outings, and vacations to keep you positive. You also told Skinner that you planned to honor Albus by going into his field of research. Skinner seemed to feel satisfied with this explanation which was good because you had to excuse yourself to get the pizza. You gave him a quick hug as he seemed to reach his arms out for this. You went downstairs and retrived the pizza. Then you came directly upstairs and put the pizza on the table in the back room of the lab. Professor Anterograde always served the pizza and so you went and informed the professor that the pizza had arrived. You did give the professor a head’s up that it seemed that the pizza delivery guy had dropped the pizza and it was a little shuffled around in the pizza box.

Professor Max Anterograde

You have never hidden the fact that you disliked Professor Memory. You believe that he got his job as director of lab only as a lucky break. You had been working on research projects with Albus Skinner for several years and the two of you were finding promising results that were not yet able to be submitted for publication. Unfortunately, the use of the rat poison in your research had taken its’ toll. You became ill and had to take a semester off due to health concerns. Albus seemed to experience no effects of the exposure to rat posion. He actually joked that his relatives had worked as royal food tasters and that he must have some genetic protective factors. Because you had to take off a semester and Albus needed to keep the research going he looked for another lab assistant to fill in while you were out. However, there was no more funding left in the budget to pay an assistant. Professor Memory was a graduate student at the time and because he was only showing mediocre results he was not able to be employed by the other senior researchers in the laboratory. He was the only person that was unemployed in the lab and as such he had the time to fill in with Albus. He was also willing to work unpaid because he hoped that by being connected with Albus’s promising research that he would make a name for himself and then be able to secure more promising employment. While you were on sick leave, Albus and Memory were able to get several papers published and they were considered to be the “rock stars” of the laboratory. Then Albus suddenly came up sick and subsequently died. Because Memory was now considered to be the only living person conducting this research and the university wanted to keep the grant funding they promoted Memory to the position of Director of the lab. He didn’t even have his doctorate yet! I was asked to keep quiet in order to keep my job and not make a fuss. Memory graduated and received his Ph.D. the following semester. I eventually recovered and returned to work but in order to stay in the laboratory, I had to refocus my research and decided to explore selective attention, specifically selective attention within ADHD. You have been working with Toni Attention on some promising research on selective attention. Now that Professor Memory is deceased you and Toni Attention will also take up the mantle of Professor Memory’s previous research. Toni Attention seems to understand Albus Skinner’s research quite well and will make a good assistant. You make no attempts to hide your feelings about Professor Memory’s death. You feel he was a mediocre scientist who took advantage of Albus Skinner’s research success and you state that as far as you’re concerned he got a taste of his own medicine as you’re not entirely sure he didn’t kill Albus to get his job.

**If asked about the night at the lab that Professor Memory died:** Professor Skinner had come in to speak with me about professor Memory. Apparently Memory had complained again and thought that we were treating memory unfairly. I said “bully to that!” I wanted to know why no one had investigated him in the murder of Albus. Skinner told me I had no proof of this and it was liable and that if I didn’t stop making these comments that it could put the university at risk. I told Skinner that I would play nice but that I still wasn’t sure that Memory wasn’t a murderer. I understand how important it is in a small lab to make sure the personal dynamics don’t disrupt the working relationships and I had been able to work with Memory for the past 20 years successfully, so I could probably work with him for the next 25 or so until I retire. Towards this end I committed that I would extend an olive branch during the dinner break that night. We ordered Pizza as we always did and I served it as is my practice. I always got into the habit of serving the pizza as I was able to remember everyone’s dietary needs. Professor Memory was a

Professor Max Anterograde (page 2)

vegetarian, Sam Bell was lactose intolerant, Toni liked extra olives, and I liked ham and pepperoni. It was just easier to be the one that served the pizza so everyone got what they wanted and then I could make sure to get the kind I liked as well. We ate our Pizza, and shortly after Memory started to look ill. At one point Memory left the lab and when he came back I saw Memory drinking some tea so I assumed Memory wasn’t well, at that point I only hoped it wasn’t food poisoning because we had all eaten the pizza. We worked for a bit longer and then around 9:30pm everyone had either left or was leaving. I left at 9:32pm. I went home and went to bed. I had to get up early the next morning to get into the lab to feed my rats. When I got here at 6am I found Professor Memory dead, slumped over some cages and with a hand outstretched toward the phone. I think I called the police but I’m not sure. Ever since coming in on Wednesday, I can’t seem to form any clear picture of what happened. I’m missing around 6 hours of time that day from 6am-noon. I’m not sure what I did or said during that time.

**If asked about your relationship with Riley Retrograde or Sam Bell**: You find them perfectly fine to get along with. You know that Sam and Toni are close which is to be understandable as they are the graduate students in the lab. You really had no difficulty getting along with anyone other than Memory.

Professor Riley Retrograde

I have always been able to get along with most people. I’m pretty easy going. I came to the lab about 10 years ago. It was obvious from day one that Anterograde and Memory didn’t get along. Anterograde had told me some rumor about Memory killing the previous director but I really don’t get involved with the “soap opera” nonsense of the laboratory. It’s best to just get your work done and go on with your life. I guess in that way, that’s why I was able to get along with Memory. Memory had the same attitude about getting the work done. I did spend some time talking with Sam and Toni, I enjoy mentoring students in research. Sam seemed to have her/his life together, Sam came from a two parent family and was encouraged by these parents to pursue science. Toni had more of a tragic story. Toni’s parents were killed in a car accident when Toni was age 2. Toni had been raised by a relative until the relative died a few years later. When that relative died, Toni was put into the foster care system and it seems Toni never received closure. Toni reports that there are some people who believed her relative caretaker was murdered but it was never investigated. Toni didn’t seem to like to take about it though and mostly I was happy just to stick to my work.

**If asked about your work:** I am currently doing research on mating behavior of rats. I’m actually been able to demonstrate that there is a lot of memory and learning in regard to mating behavior. For instance, did you know that male rats that are placed in small coats prior to mating will refuse to mate in future situations without wearing a coat. It’s really fascinating behavior and I hope to apply it to understanding how memory and operant conditioning may impact human attractiveness and mate choice as well.

**If asked about the night of Memory’s Murder:** Well it’s strange but I seem to be missing a good bit of information from last Tuesday. I do remember being here in the lab but I don’t remember anything else. Truly, the memory of being in the lab might just be a left over from other Tuesday’s as we all work late every Tuesday.