

Vaibhav Ranjan**Doctor**

You followed in your father's footsteps and became a doctor. You have a great reputation in cardiology. You are sought after to do complicated heart surgeries, because you have done so many successful procedures. You are from India and have a beautiful wife who stays at home to take care of your four children. You both love to go to the ballet. Although your immediate family is deceased, your family takes an annual trip to India to vacation and visit your wife's family.

Joanna Osuna**Professional Businesswoman**

You are a Hispanic 30-year-old businesswoman who has stepped up in the ranks from job to job. You frequently receive job offers from companies that want your skills. Not only are you intelligent, but also you are also bilingual and can make great business deals with men and women alike. You are single, dress professionally, and during your free time, you play piano, which you've played since you were a child. Your single mom worked two full-time jobs to make sure you could get into a private school and get private lessons for piano. You keep yourself pretty busy, so you don't really have time for friends. You tend to keep to yourself outside of work because your job wears you out. You do make time to go on vacations with your mom. You two are close, as she has supported you in everything you have done.

Brian Armstrong**Garbage Man**

You have the job everyone thinks would stink, because it quite literally does. You are a 32-year-old garbage man. You dropped out of high school because you hated it. You played video games all day before you realized you had no money and your parents kept threatening to kick you out when you turned 18. At first you picked up minimum wage fast food jobs. After hating it, you swore you would never work a fast food job again. You stopped working for a while and started charging all your expenses to a credit card, so you are now \$4,000 in debt. Although it didn't sound very appealing at first, you needed cash and heard that garbage men made a lot of money, so you pursued that job.

You share a one-bedroom apartment with a roommate whom you get along with somewhat. You guys play video games together when you get off work.

Marta Portillo**Candy-Processing Factory Worker**

You are a 39-year-old factory worker who works in a candy-processing factory. You moved here from Guatemala when you were young. Although you are a hard worker, you are limited to this job, because you dropped out of high school and never learned how to work with computers. The noise from the machines at your company has been hard on your ears. You need to go to the doctor for your hearing, but you can't afford to pay for health insurance and it's not included in your job. Your husband is addicted to gambling and has already been arrested twice. Any income he makes seems to disappear as soon as it comes. You have three kids you need to take care of as well, and you want them to have the opportunities that you didn't have as a child, like playing a sport or learning an instrument, but the schools they attend don't have the staff to support those types of programs.

Wayne Williams**Homeless Man**

You are a 67-year-old homeless man. You live in the city, trying to stay as warm as possible. You occasionally find a homeless shelter or a church giving out free food. During your days, you wander around with a grocery cart collecting cans and bottles for recycling. During your evenings, you are a frequent pan-handler in front of a popular movie theater downtown. This is how you create an income. Most people scowl at you or ignore you. A few toss coins into your box out of pity. You don't have any friends by choice. You think you are better than everyone else on the streets because you are one of the few that aren't addicted to drugs or have a mental disability. You are just bitter—bitter that you graduated from college and are still homeless. At the time you needed someone the most, none of your family or so-called "friends" offered to help. The streets have been hard on your health.

Ashley Johnson**High School Girl**

You are a pretty good student, intelligent and finishing your homework on time. You are experiencing all the drama of high school, but along with that, your mother has been struggling to pay rent and your father has been writing to you from prison trying to reconnect with you after 10 years of no contact whatsoever. Even though your friends are there for you, they don't understand what you're going through. You have been feeling very alone, and don't know whether or not you want to respond to your father. So instead you just drown yourself in music on your iPod, keeping everything inside since no one understands anyway. Although you are starting to isolate yourself, your friends won't have it. They give you your space, but are there for you whenever you want to talk, and they make sure you come to school and hang out with them after school, too.

Chris Jacobberger**Foster Care System Graduate**

You are an 18-year-old who has just graduated from the foster care system in Colorado. You lived with a family for the past five years that took you on vacations, helped you with your homework, helped you get on the basketball team at your high school, and was supportive of you going to college. You are planning on going to a community college next year in California. As much as you got support from the foster care family, you just needed to get away and experience your independence, and California seemed like a perfect getaway. You don't really have any connections in California and will need to get a job as soon as you get out there to pay for rent. You'll most likely only be able to find minimum wage jobs available for college students. Your foster parents helped you set up a bank account, but they are worried you won't graduate college while working full time.

Johnny Mason**Parolee**

You are a 36-year-old Mexican American parolee. After having an extremely difficult time trying to get a job, you finally found a job working on a bridge construction project paying only \$10 an hour. You have a wife and two kids so it's hard to support them on such a low income. Fortunately, your wife works, too, and you also receive welfare. You are able to rent a two-bedroom apartment. You are subject to random screenings and countless meetings with your parole officer. You have come a long way from the gang lifestyle that you used to lead but you struggle with depression often when you think about how easy it was to get money in the old days. Your mother, wife, and kids support you and help you to continue on what you know is the right path.

Jim McCullen**Struggling Drug Addict**

You are a 30-year-old drug addict, and you are trying to get through 30 days of sobriety. You are currently living in a drug rehabilitation program structured to help people who struggle with challenges like yours. You come from a wealthy family and you started doing drugs for fun during college, then through your addictive nature you became addicted to all sorts of drugs and alcohol. You never graduated college and fell into \$5,000 of debt because of buying drugs. You are trying hard to beat this drug habit, but the thought of drugs haunts you and the urge seems almost unbearable. On top of that you are a painter so you also look at paint as a tempting drug. Luckily, you have a support group of other addicts who understand your struggle and are striving to help you step by step.

Kirsten Young**Real Estate Agent**

You are a 36-year-old woman who knows the housing market. You became a real estate agent when you moved to California, and everyone was interested in the housing market. You dropped out of high school, but were motivated to make a living when you became a single mom. Your mom's good friend helped you out when you moved so that you and your daughter had a place to stay for free. You worked hard to get your GED and then studied all the information you could in order to become a real estate agent. Because you understand struggle, you relate to your clients' struggles and searching and help them find the home that is perfect for them. People love working with you because they trust you. Although you aren't able to go on vacations, you have been able to pay off your debt, buy a house of your own, and get a puppy for your daughter.

Maribel Medina**Undocumented Immigrant**

You are a 23-year-old girl who came into this country when you were 5 years old. Your parents brought you over from Mexico illegally, but you didn't know until you were 12. Since then, you have been trying to live under the radar to not bring too much attention to yourself. You have no memory of Mexico, and from the stories your parents have told you, it sounds like you would have no future if you were sent back. You've been trying to gain U.S. citizenship since you turned 18, but nothing has gone in your favor. You have been unable to afford to go to college, even though you did really well in high school and love school. You've been working two full-time jobs in order to make ends meet, and help with payments for your family, but you've been paid in cash "under the table" and sometimes your employers pay you less and tell you that you have no legal support to fight back.

Keisha Hill**College student at private university**

You are a 19-year-old African American female who currently attends Stanford University. You live in the on-campus housing and work in the student library. Your mother and father didn't have much financially, and were sometimes supported by public assistance, but they have always showed you the utmost support through believing you can do anything to which you set your heart and mind. They went to every one of your volleyball games, and many of their friends came to cheer you on as well. They didn't graduate from college, so they tried to set you up for success in that area. You come from a troubled neighborhood. Your brother was a victim of violence there by gunshot, and now has to be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. You have vowed to graduate college and come back to your community as an English teacher.

Mario Lopez**Mayor**

You are a 38-year-old mayor and businessman. Originally from Mexico, you moved to Texas with your father at the age of 16 and worked hard, learned the language, then graduated college (which you were the first in your family to do). You started your own company, which has been very successful over the years. Your wife also has a job and brings in income for your family, which includes your two kids. Your family enjoys going to plays and traveling for week-long summer vacations each year. Your goal as mayor is to be a role model to the next generation of your city, but most importantly you would like to open doors for the rest of your family from Mexico to be able to move to America and live the American dream.

Anoushirvan Sahar**Owner of corner grocery store**

You moved to the states to escape the violence from the Taliban in Afghanistan and have lived here since 1998. When you moved here, you made your home quickly in a community with a lot of other Afghans. You and your large, faithful community of friends have enjoyed the freedom America offers to celebrate your own traditions. You are well known and respected within your community. When you moved here, you started your own corner grocery store that was quite successful. This store has become so successful that you've started three branches in surrounding cities. Your income has been enough to support your family and allowed you to live a comfortable lifestyle. You have been unable to return to Afghanistan (or go on any trips for that matter) but you are happy to be in a safe and free country.

Cleo Miller**Elderly man in a nursing home**

You are a 72-year-old African American man who lives in a nursing home. When your wife died four years ago, and your children lived far away and could not take care of you, you decided to move from the house you owned for the past 40 years to this nursing home. You never graduated high school, and so you worked a labor-intensive job at a car factory until you retired. You didn't have a lot of money to get into a luxurious nursing home, but at least this one is comfortable. You like to play cards with your fellow nursing home mates.

Carol Gallagher**Stay-at-home Mom**

You are a stay-at-home mom who is taking care of three kids (and two dogs). Your husband is a CEO of a company and brings in enough income so you don't have to work. You have been married for 11 years to your high school sweetheart. Although you never went to college, you graduated high school and got married soon after. You worked a few jobs here and there while your husband was in college. Now you have a lot of freedom to do what you love, which is crafts. You were never much into sports or instruments, but your hobbies included scrapbooking, crocheting, and sewing. You make a lot of clothes for your children, and enjoy craft nights with your friends at least twice a month. This is a normal lifestyle for you as your mom home-schooled you when you were a child and she taught you how to cook, clean, sew, crochet...she pretty much taught you everything you know.

Joy Rosenstein**Landlord**

You are a 40-year-old landlord of two large apartment complexes. You were left with quite an inheritance from your parents when they passed. You had enough money to live on, and so you tried to learn the best way to invest it, or to make the most of it. Someone told you to invest in real estate, so you have learned as much as you can about the properties in your area and have been shrewd in making a profit. As a successful landlord, you own and rent out two large apartment complexes. You are considered wealthy and make over \$100,000 a year just for yourself. Unfortunately, in order to get the apartment complexes you own, you had to double-cross your neighbors and friends. It hasn't ruined your reputation as a landlord because you rent to people from outside the community most of the time. But you have no friends and most people don't trust you.

Huong Trung**Recent legal immigrant**

You are 24-year-old immigrant who recently moved to the USA from Vietnam. You currently attend a junior college and live with your uncle and aunt, who have been supportive of your move and your future here in America. You are able to bring in a little money for your needs since you got a job in the campus cafeteria. Your main challenge with being new to this country is the language barrier. You stay after class and study with an English tutor every day so you can become fluent. Your inspiration to succeed in America comes from your mother and father. You watched them struggle for their family's sake all their lives until they died just two years ago. When they died, they were unable to leave anything behind for their family. But you still respected them greatly. You don't want their legacy to be in vain, so you are striving to succeed to show your parents that their effort was greatly appreciated and well received.

Dorell Coleman**Young Teacher / Entertainer**

You are 23 years old. You live in a 1-bedroom apartment and have a beautiful 4-year-old daughter. You have dreams of being in the entertainment industry and have been working toward those dreams for years, but recently you acquired a teaching job that has brought a whole new passion to your life. You love to encourage and assist others in learning so teaching is natural for you. You network well and get along with almost everyone you meet so you have a lot of friends.

Your inspiration for success comes from the three most important women in your life: your mother, grandmother, and daughter. You have made some mistakes in your life, but you always seem to bounce back and grow from them. One of your mistakes was charging too much on credit cards during college. You are currently \$3,500 in debt and are struggling to pay it off.

Colleen Padilla**Teacher**

You are a 27-year-old teacher in the public school system and have been a teacher for three years. You teach 5th grade because your 5th grade teacher inspired you and was always there for you. Unfortunately you have not received tenure, which means you don't have much job security. During your third year of teaching, you received a pink slip. This basically means that you're not guaranteed a position at this school the next year. Although this is a little scary, you don't think it will be too hard to find another teaching job, but you may need to drive a lot further to another school than you do now. The commute will be worth it, especially because your husband, to whom you've been married for only a year, just lost his job and has no income. You and your husband have a group of friends that you get together with often and go on vacations together. You just bought a puppy and enjoy the adventure of training it.

George Lesser**Lawyer**

You have the job you always wanted to have since you were on your speech and debate team in high school. As the best debater on the team, many encouraged you to go to law school and become a lawyer. Your parents both graduated from college and expected you to graduate, too. One of the hardest experiences of your life was taking the Bar exam to become a lawyer. Although you had to take it three times, you finally passed and now, at 43 years old, you are considered to be a successful lawyer. You'll do almost anything to win a case, but you still stick by the truth because you believe that ultimately truth will win out.

You have been married for 12 years and you and your wife have adopted three children from Africa. You have managed your money well using banking and investment over the last 10 years.

Janelle Carter**Single Mom**

You are a 26-year-old single mom. You have a 7-year-old son and you live in a 1-bedroom apartment. You are currently attending a local junior college and working as a receptionist for a car company. You used to have dreams of being a model and a great actress but started to look towards more practical professions after you had your child. Your son's father is in jail, and so you can't receive child support from him. The pressure of being a young parent and the struggle of maintaining a steady income in this economy has had you in a deep depression over the years. You receive help from welfare, but you've had to make some sacrifices to pay for food and clothes for your son. Unfortunately, you charged most of those purchases to your credit card, and you have over \$2,000 in debt.

Bo Boggs**School Bus Driver**

You are a 47-year-old school bus driver. You rent a three-bedroom home and live there with your wife and four kids who are all between the ages of 10 and 17. You receive public assistance to cover your needs, but both you and your wife need to work in order to pay off your payday loans that you had to borrow before receiving help.

You come from a tough past of violence and crime, but you turned your life around for your family. You often have control issues with your wife and kids, so the house can often be a tense place to be. Your kids don't respect you, and your wife is the only person who really supports you. You find joy in driving younger kids to school. It reminds you of when your kids were young and had a better relationship with you.

Jennifer Harris**Nursing Home Assistant**

You are a 23-year-old young lady who enjoys your job working at a nursing home, assisting the elderly with their needs. You help them remember medicines, wash, and keep clean. You read stories to them and work on puzzles with them. Your favorite part of your job is listening to their many different life stories and experiences. You enjoy your job because your grandmother raised you and you respected her so much for taking you under her wing when your parents died in a tragic car accident when you were 7 years old. She started attending this nursing home when you turned 17, so when you graduated high school, you just started a job working at the same nursing home. Your grandmother died three years ago, and although she was the only family you had left, the residents at the nursing home are your friends. You rent a one-bedroom apartment and live by yourself.

Tim Johnson**Middle School Student**

You attend a private middle school and have never been in financial want of anything. Your parents have paid for everything you've ever asked for, and encouraged your natural skill at playing the trumpet. Although the money is there, your father is never home, working late nights, and your mother and father are rarely on good speaking terms. It's more often that you find them fighting about the littlest things. She suspects him of having an affair. You have recently made the first chair of your band for the trumpets and everyone sees a lot of potential for your trumpet skills. You live in a really nice neighborhood and your mom often takes you to see the orchestra so you can grow more in your skills. You have two cats and wish your father was home more often, or that he would at least take time off for a family vacation.

Frank Seaberg**Young Entrepreneur**

You are a 23-year-old entrepreneur. You are at the beginning of starting your own entertainment promotion company. After finishing college, you moved home to live with your parents in order to save up enough money and now you feel it is the time to start your journey. The dilemma you are facing is that you have always talked about certain opportunities that were presented to you as if you had them before you really received them. This often blew up in your face because most of the people who supported you before either think you are a hypocrite or a liar. Your mother, who was successful in starting her own business, has never left your side and encourages you to stay focused as you start this new adventure.

Bill Bernard**CEO of major company**

You are a 50-year-old CEO of Sage Liability Insurance Company. You live in a beautiful mansion in Hampton, Virginia. Although you have been successful financially, you have been unsuccessful relationally. You have gone through two divorces, and now live alone. You have always been known to have solely a business attitude, and therefore you hate building personal relationships with anyone who cannot advance your business. You have burned a lot of bridges with that attitude, and with your company's recent down-turn in sales, you have no one to support you during these hard times. You find solace in playing your violin, which is the only thing you love on earth just as much as your business. From your private lessons as a child, you practice often to improve your talent, and the music soothes you when you are depressed.

Hassan Saaed**Lost Boy of Sudan**

You are a 25-year-old college graduate, who was a part of the lost boys of Sudan. When you were young you were forced to fight in a brutal war where you witnessed your friends and family all get murdered. You were rescued from that same fate and brought to America where you were raised by parents who adopted you and gave you a very comfortable lifestyle. You graduated from an Ivy League college, and now you are a motivational speaker determined to destroy the mindset of hate wherever you go. You live in a luxury condo, which you own. Your dream is to adopt children from troubled backgrounds in order to help them live a prosperous life. Because of your family's wealth and generosity, you know you can fall back on them if you ever need to. They are very proud of you. You impact the lives of high school students on a daily basis.

John Smith**Adult with mental disability**

You are a 50-year-old man who has never been married. Unfortunately, you are still living at home with your parents because of a mental disability with which you were diagnosed when you were 27 years old. Now you're back where you grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the only other place you got to experience was Miami, Florida during your college years. Currently, your parents support you fully as you are unable to hold down a job. You have a cat you take care of, your favorite hobby is photography, and you are happy with your life. You enjoy annual vacations with your parents to beautiful sights so you can take lots of scenic pictures. Others may see your life as lonely but you are content.

Doug Martin**Police Officer**

You graduated from college, which was expected of you because both of your parents also graduated. They put pressure on you so you moved far from them to become a cop. You have been a cop for 13 years now and have seen almost everything. You married your college girlfriend before you became a cop, then went through a rough divorce. She left you because you didn't come home very often. You explained to her that every cop works overtime, but she wouldn't hear it. You have struggled with depression since the divorce, and you are struggling to pay off some credit card debt you owe. You rent a one-bedroom apartment by yourself and own a dog.