**The Balloon Debate**

You are in a hot air balloon which is losing height rapidly and will soon crash because it is overweight; therefore you have to get rid of seven of the passengers! Who would you choose? Your task is to decide which people will stay in the balloon. You MUST know how each person on the list contributed to society before beginning your debate. **Everyone has to agree to abide by your decision.**

The passengers are:

1. Mother Teresa

2. Nelson Mandela

3. Florence Nightingale

4. Charles Darwin

5. Homer

6. Joan of Arc

7. Albert Einstein

8. Leonardo da Vinci

9. Sojourner Truth

10. Barrack Obama

11. William Shakespeare

12. Marie Curie

13. Abraham Lincoln

14. Mahatma Gandhi

15. Vincent Van Gogh

16. Margaret Thatcher

17. Beethoven

18. Martin Luther King Jr.

19. Elie Wiesel

20. Susan B. Anthony

**Reaching a consensus in this type of exercise:**

* Consensus is hard to achieve, but it is much better to argue with logic than to use a majority vote.
* Avoid win-lose stalemates: everyone needs to buy in to the eventual solution if possible.
* View differences of opinion as creative: the more ideas the more potential for conflict, but also the richer the pool of resources to choose from.
* Be careful of reaching agreement too soon, before all options have been carefully considered.
* Try to argue your case calmly and with logic: appreciate the views of others even if different from your own.

   