

## Discussion Exercise

Group Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Have everyone in the group share their answers to the homework questions.  
**Record the three best, most unique, most interesting examples of:**

### WAYS OUR SENSES CAN TRICK US:

1)

2)

3)

### EXAMPLES OF "MIND OVER MATTER":

1)

2)

3)

- 2) List three ways that someone who is an athlete and a person who believes in the ideas of the philosophy of Idealism might apply these beliefs to the way they approach their participation in this sport.

1)

2)

3)

- 3) What are two DIFFERENT possible interpretations of human's relationship with the environment that might arise from Idealist philosophy?

1)

2)

- 4) The following is a transcript of part of Barak Obama's Iowa Caucus victory speech. Please read it, discuss it, and write down the reasons he could be considered to be following the beliefs of Idealism.

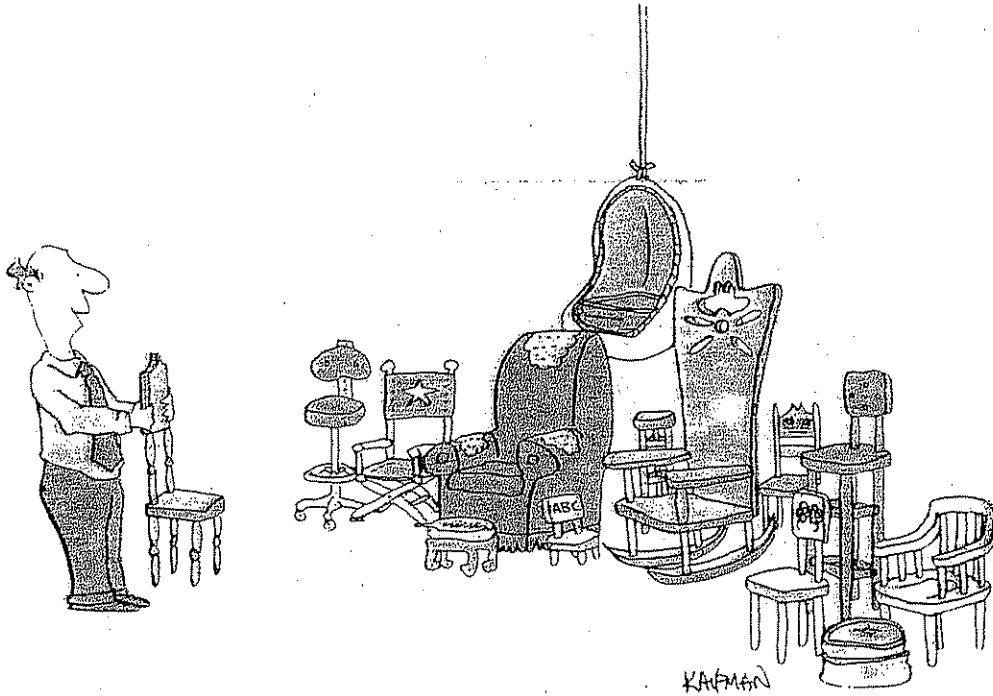
Years from now, you'll look back and you'll say that this was the moment, this was the place where America remembered what it means to hope. For many months, we've been teased, even derided for talking about hope. But we always knew that hope is not blind optimism. It's not ignoring the enormity of the tasks ahead or the roadblocks that stand in our path.

It's not sitting on the sidelines or shirking from a fight. Hope is that thing inside us that insists, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us if we have the courage to reach for it and to work for it and to fight for it.

Hope is the bedrock of this nation. The belief that our destiny will not be written for us, but by us, by all those men and women who are not content to settle for the world as it is, who have the courage to remake the world as it should be.

- 5) As a group, brainstorm song lyrics to find a great example of a song that expresses the main ideas of Idealism. Write the words and a few specific reasons why your group chose this particular song as its example of Idealism.

- 6) Read the following cartoon and write down the reasons I would have included it as part of a unit on Idealism.



*Attention, everyone! I'd like to introduce the newest member of our family."*

- 7) Discuss how the basic ideas presented in Idealist Philosophy may have influenced many western religious notions that what is of this world is "evil". Come up with three examples of how this might be illustrated in a study of the religious beliefs of Judaism, Islam, and/or Christianity.

1)

2)

3)

8) Read the following story. Discuss how it represents an example of Idealist philosophy. List your group's conclusions at the end of the story.

There was a teenager who lived alone with his father and the two of them had a very special relationship. From a young age the boy played football and even though the boy was always on the bench, his father was always in the stands cheering. He never missed a game. This young man was still the smallest of the class when he entered high school. His father continued to encourage him, but also made it very clear that he did not have to play football if he didn't want to. But the young man loved football and decided to hang in there.

He was determined to try his best at every practice; perhaps he'd get to play when he became a senior. All through high school he never missed a practice or a game, but remained a bench warmer all four years. His faithful father was always in the stands, always with words of encouragement for him.

When the young man went to college, he decided to try out for the football team as a "walk-on." Everyone was sure he could never make the cut, but he did. The coach admitted that he kept him on the roster because he always puts his heart and soul to every practice, and at the same time, provided the other members with the spirit and hustle they badly needed. The news that he had survived the cut thrilled him so much that he rushed to the nearest phone and called his father. His father shared his excitement and was sent season tickets for all the college games. This persistent young athlete never missed practice during his four years at college, but he never got to play in a game.

It was the end of his senior football season, and as he trotted onto the practice field shortly before the big play off game, the coach met him with a message. The young man read the note and he became silent. Swallowing hard, he mumbled to the coach, "My father died this morning. Is it all right if I miss practice today?" The coach put his arm gently around his shoulder and said, "Take the rest of the week off, son. And don't even plan to come back to the game on Saturday."

Saturday arrived, and the game was not going well. In the third quarter, when the team was ten points behind, a silent young man quietly slipped into the empty locker room and put on his football gear. As he ran onto the sidelines, the coach and his players were astounded to see their faithful teammate back so soon.

"Coach please let me play. I've just got to play today," said the young man. The coach pretended not to hear him. There was no way he wanted his worst player in this close playoff game. But the young man persisted. Finally feeling sorry for the kid, the coach gave in. "All right," he said. "You can go in." Before long, the coach, the players and everyone in the stands could not believe their eyes. This little unknown, who had never played before was doing everything right. The opposing team could not stop him. He ran, he passed, blocked and tackled like a star. His team began to triumph.

The score was soon tied. In the closing seconds of the game, this kid intercepted a pass and ran all the way for the winning touchdown. The fans broke loose. His teammates hoisted him onto their shoulders. Such cheering you've never heard! Finally, after the stands had emptied and the team had showered and left the locker room, the coach noticed that the young man was sitting quietly in the corner all alone. The coach came to him and said, "Kid, I can't believe it. You were fantastic! Tell me what got into you? How did you do it?"

He looked at the coach, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Well, you knew my dad died, but did you know that my dad was blind?" The young man swallowed hard and forced a smile, "Dad came to all my games, but today was the first time he could see me play, and I wanted to show him I could do it!"