You are a passenger on a small commuter airliner in that has just crash-landed. Mid-January is the coldest
time of the year in Minnesota and you are eighty miles form the nearest town.

Many individuals tend to overlook the enormous shock reaction this has upon the human body, and the death
of the pilot and copilot increases the shock. Decision making under such conditions is extremely difficult. Such
a situation requires a strong emphasis upon the use of reasoning not only to make decisions, but also to
reduce the fear and panic every person would naturally feel. Along with fear, shock reaction is manifested in
the feelings of helplessness, loneliness, and hopelessness. These feelings have brought about more fatalities
than perhaps any other cause in survival situations. Through the use of reasoning, hope for survival and the
will to live can be generated. Certainly the state of shock means the movement of individuals should be at a
minimum and that an attempt to calm them should be made.

Before taking off a pilot always has to file a flight plan. The flight plan contains the vital information
regarding the flight, such as course, speed and estimated time of arrival, type of aircraft, number of people on
board and so on. Search and Rescue operations would begin shortly after the plane failed to arrive at its
destination and its estimated time of arrival.

The eighty miles to the nearest town is a very long walk even under ideal conditions, particularly if one is not
used to walking such distances. Under the circumstances of being in shock, dressed in city clothes, having
deep snow in the woods and a variety of water barriers to cross, to attempt to walk out would mean almost
certain death from freezing and exhaustion. At the temperatures given, the loss of body heat through exertion
is a very serious matter.

As you can see, you have a formidable survival problem at hand. We are going to help you develop your
reasoning abilities in a survival scenario by asking you to rank, in order of importance, fifteen items that
would be available to you in our make believe situation.

The answers will be supplied after you complete this exercise. Unlike the survivors in our example, you will
have plenty of time to sort out the items and rank them, in a warm and comfortable room. Good Thinking &
Good Reasoning!

___ Compress kit (with 28’ x 2” gauze) ___ Ball of steel wool
___ Cigarette Lighter (no fluid) ___ Loaded .45 caliber pistol
___ Newspaper (1 per person) ___ Compass
___ 2 Ski poles ___ Knife
___ Sectional air-chart of plastic ___ 30 feet of rope
___ Family size Hershey Bar (1 each) ___ Flashlight with batteries
___ Quart of 85-proof whiskey ___ Extra shirt & pants for each person
___ Can of shortening

Editors remarks

As you think about your choices - with your small group - use the ABC’s of thinking to
help generate new choice: alternatives - beliefs - consequences.

What alternatives are there that you haven’t considered. Use other group members to challenge yourself.
What beliefs that you have about the scenario are being challenged by the other group members.
What consequences are generated by your behavior for yourself and others - physically, emotionally.

Opinions and feelings are frequently a personal triumph over good thinking.
You define reality by what you know, what you believe, and what you do about it.