

Exercise: Planned Parenthood

- ▶ You are a loaned executive to Planned Parenthood of [your state], in the capital city where the organization has its offices and operates a clinic.
- ▶ It is the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision by the Supreme Court, establishing the right to legal abortion.
- ▶ An ultra-conservative afternoon disc jockey / talk show host on a 50,000-watt AM radio station in the state capital city broadcasts an interview purportedly with Margaret Sanger, a pioneer in birth control in the early 1900s, who fought to remove the legal barriers to information about contraception. She founded the organization which became Planned Parenthood.
- ▶ The talk show host identifies his "guest" Sanger as favoring eugenics and being racist. Margaret Sanger has been dead since 1966, but this is not mentioned. The quotes from Sanger are authentic; these were her views at the time.
 - > Eugenics -- a philosophy of improving humanity through "selective breeding" -- was a popular viewpoint in the early 1900s. (Hitler's pogroms to eliminate Jews wiped out support for eugenics in this country.)
 - > However, Sanger spent most of her career efforts in gaining legal and public acceptance of contraception and family planning.

NOTE: This story is true. In a Midwest city, a broadcast personality did just that.

- ▶ *The task:* What research will you recommend to assess the damage?
And the need for action, if any?