

## Supplemental Material

### Survey with adults.

25 participants on Amazon's Mechanical Turk platform read the following story:

*Bob and Bill can both operate a special machine. Bob is very good at making the machine work. When he tries to operate the machine he immediately succeeds. Bill is not very good at making the machine work. When he tries to operate the machine he always needs to try many times before succeeding. For every other thing, Bob and Bill are just as good.*

*One day Brandon, their friend, needs help operating the machine, or else he will get fired.*

*Brandon asks Bob for help and Bob refuses to help him.*

*Brandon asks Bill for help and Bill refuses to help him.*

Next, participants responded three multiple-choice questions:

1. Who's better at making the machine go? (Bob, Bill, or Brandon).
2. If you had to choose, who is to blame for Brandon getting fired? (Bob or Bill)
3. Who would you rather be friends with? (Bob or Bill).

Last, participants were asked an open-ended question: Please explain the reason for your choice.

All participants responded the first control question correctly (selecting Bob), and all participants said Bob was more blameworthy. On the affiliation question 56% of participants (N=14) chose the competent agent (Bob) and 44% of participants (N=11) chose the less competent agent (Bill).

Participants who preferred to be friends with the competent agent (Bob) responded:

If I had to choose I say Bob because he seems be to able to get the machine going a little better and is maybe overall smarter than Bill.
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I really wouldn't prefer either. I don't know much about them.
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Bob and Bill are equal except for the mastery of the 'special machine'. Even though both refused to help Brandon, Bob would have had better chance of saving Brandon's job. I
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would rather be friends with Bob because he can always make the special machine function.
Bob is better than bill. Simple as that.
Bob is better and should have helped. Bob is better that's why I would rather be friends.
Bob can operate the machine better.
they both sound like jerks, but if I had to choose one or the other, I would choose Bob. At least he can work the stupid machine. Maybe if we were friends he would help me.
Bob could have helped Brandon more so it's more his responsibility.
bob is more popular man.
he's better
I would want to be friends with Bob in case I needed to make the machine work.
Bob sounds more capable and smart. I'd rather have smart friends than not so smart.
Bill most likely understands that he's not good with the machine. He probably declined because he wouldn't be able to make it work. However, Bob is good with the machine and would have been able to make it work. His refusal had nothing to do with his ability.
At least if Bob was my friend, he could help me out with the machine successfully. especially if my job was on the line.

Participants who preferred to be friends with the incompetent agent (Bill) responded:

I wouldn't honestly blame either one for Brandon's not knowing what he is doing...why the hell did we hire him in the first place? you know what -YOU are fired. I have no preference for being either of their friends.
Bill probably refused because he knows he sucks at doing it and doesn't want to f*** up brandon's situation any more. that shows self awareness and concern. I like that
Bob, having superior ability with the special machine, was in a better position to aid Brandon than Bill. Thus, Bob's refusal could show a greater deficit in character.
Bill refused because he knew he wasn't very good at it and would have gotten Brandon fired. Bob refused because he is a jerk.
I find it a poor choice for Bob, who has the most experience with machines, would refuse to help and not likely want to be friends with him.
Bill might have refused to help because he was afraid of being blamed for any failure. Bob is probably more selfish in his refusal to help, being skilled in machine manipulation.
Bob sounds like a jerk, why didn't he help?
If Bob knows it only takes 1 time for him to get the machine to work then frankly he's just being a jerk. It's more understandable if Bill doesn't want to help given his track record with starting the machine.
He wasn't good at so that's why he didn't help.
They both refused, so neither is nice. Bob at least is good at the task...
I'd rather be friends with Bill because he doesn't give up when he is trying to do something and tries to figure things out. I can understand why Bill wouldn't want to help and that's because he'd be embarrassed and it'd take him a long time to help Brandon.

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Either one of them should have helped though...