

# EPISODE 5

## Not It

### EPISODE CONCEPT

**needs assessment**

### STUDENT OBJECTIVE\*

I can define the term *needs assessment* and apply it to a variety of situations.

### EPISODE CHALLENGE

Nobody wants to deal with the new client Herb—and it's no wonder. He's annoying, needy, and strange looking. The staffers keep passing him around like a hot potato; no one wants the responsibility. A closer look at his file, however, reveals the true nature of his problems—and allows him to get the care he needs.

\* Display this objective at start of class and ask a student to read it aloud.

## PREPARE: EPISODE MINI LESSON

**BEFORE CLASS:** Copy the map below onto the board. Include only the category headings and the term *needs assessment* at the top. Alternatively, you may project the uncompleted map on the next page of this lesson onto a whiteboard. Answers in blue are suggestions only.

Keep the completed map on the board so that students can refer to it as they play Episode 5.

### TAP PRIOR KNOWLEDGE (10-12 MIN)

Tell students that Episode 5 is about getting the right kinds of help to victims of a hurricane. Refer to the model on the board. Tell students its purpose is to help them understand the term *needs assessment*.

Brainstorm with students a list of things a hurricane victim might need in the days following the storm. Write them in the LIST box. Explain that the headings *Food and Shelter*, *Medical*, and *Social Services* are categories of different kinds of needs. Help students complete the model by sorting the needs into categories.



### GET READY TO APPLY (1-2 MIN)

Tell students that in Episode 5 a client's problems fall into several categories. Based on what they learned, how might categorizing problems be a part of a *needs assessment*? (In cases where a client has multiple problems, the client can be matched with professionals who have the right kinds of expertise.)

WORD/CONCEPT

LIST

GROUP

RESOURCES  
CATEGORY

SOCIAL SERVICES  
CATEGORY

MEDICAL  
CATEGORY