Apollo 13 “Houston, we have a problem”. “Working the Problem”

**Cast**

Tom Hanks ……Jim Lovell Gary Sinise ……Ken Mattingly

Bill Paxton …… Fred Haise Ed Harris …… Gene Kranz

Kevin Bacon …. Jack Swigert

**Lessons in Management and Leadership**

1. This movie shows the efforts of teamwork and what happens during crisis.

Explain what the leader’s job was and how they coped with the crisis?

2. Identify the characters who showed the qualities, loyalty, courage and responsibility and explain how they demonstrated these.

3. Ken Mattingly is replaced on the original flight crew by Jack Swigert because of a possibility

of illness. Who takes the ultimate responsibility for this difficult decision? What does this

demonstrate about his leadership?

4. There is some discussion about this being the 13th flight for the Apollo program. How does

the film show the world of superstition interacting with the way NASA operates? Notice Jim Lovell’s response to the reporter on this.

5. Gene Kranz’s response to the crisis is to have his team “work the problem.” What does he

mean by this? How does this approach avoid finger pointing and blame laying?

7. What leadership skills are used by the engineers when they have to “invent a way to put a

square peg in a round hole”?

8. Explain why the Apollo 13 mission was described as a “successful failure”