

Verbal Assault – Solution

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For each of the opponents, the three given insults each contain a hidden word (in consecutive letters but spanning at least two words) from a particular set. A word (of the given length) can be inserted into one of the remaining insults so that the resulting insult contains another hidden word from that set. Taking the inserted words in opponent order, and using the winning streaks to determine which letter to choose gives the puzzle answer, **WEAKNESS**.

Opponent 1 (Levels of taxonomic classification)

I love when you sing "Re, fa, mi..." Lying. You're terrible.	FAMILY
They should award you a trophy: LummoX of the Year.	PHYLUM
You're always knocking dominoes over, oaf.	KINGDOM
Someone should stab you with a SWORD, eradicating you.	ORDER

SWORD (2) = W

Opponent 2 (European capitals)

Maybe some wrinkle cream would help with those slumber lines.	BERLIN
War's a wonderful time compared to being around you.	WARSAW
You're a pack of meat that someone should label grade F.	BELGRADE
You're like John Gotti, but more ass-like; they should call you the Teflon DONKEY.	LONDON

DONKEY (5) = E

Opponent 3 (Colors)

If I said you had a sharp mind, I goofed.	INDIGO
Read this chart, reused from the last time I insulted you.	CHARTREUSE
Who rang every doorbell in Idiotville? You.	ORANGE
You're dumb enough to drive a Chevy CAMARO on thin ice.	MAROON

CAMARO (2) = A

Opponent 4 (Chemical elements)

I bet you think Rob Ford is a foxy genius.	OXYGEN
In ancient Rome, you'd have made every consul furious!	SULFUR
Think you hit the jackpot, ass? I, um, disagree.	POTASSIUM
If you were seaweed, you'd be the most moronic (4) in the ocean!	NICKEL

KELP (1) = K

Opponent 5 (U.S. Presidents)

You should just stay in to do your washing tonight.	WASHINGTON
You smell like you live in a discarded cigar field.	GARFIELD
You're a gangrenous corpse!	REAGAN
Becoming a wandering NOMAD is one more good way to avoid you.	MADISON

NOMAD (1) = N

Opponent 6 (Human bones)

Hey, chum? Er... use more soap.	HUMERUS
I know many people you repel visually.	PELVIS
Grandpa, tell another story about being a geezer.	PATELLA
You've proved yourself a disaster NUMEROUS times.	STERNUM

NUMEROUS (4) = E

Opponent 7 (Planets)

Clear the way, jerk!

You ran us out of town with your stench.

You're so ugly, Medusa turned to stone.

How many people do you offend per day? At least SEVEN, usually.

SEVEN (1) = S

EARTH
URANUS
SATURN
VENUS

Opponent 8 (Musical tempos)

I'm surprised you don't have pincers and antennae.

That's a terrible poem, ode rat. Ouch.

You're too fat to give the person behind you any real legroom.

Sleep, REST, or laze. That's all you're good for.

REST (3) = S

ANDANTE
MODERATO
ALLEGRO
PRESTO