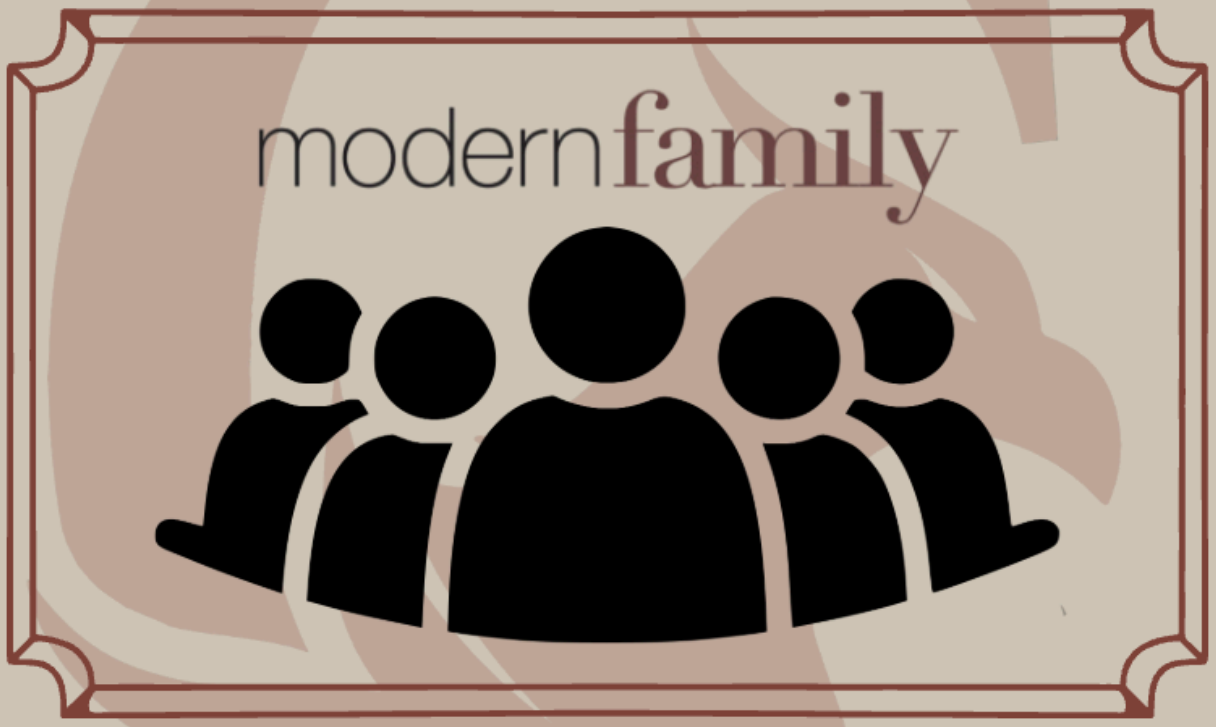
CPSSMUN XIII



Modern Family

Ria Sharma and Esha Modugulda

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Content Disclaimer

It is important to note that this background guide is based on the television series Modern Family, including its fictional characters, families, relationships, and events. The imaginative elements that make this narrative possible are solely intended to emphasize the structure and goals of this committee. In consequence of this, this background guide will explore sensitive topics including family conflict, manipulation, extortion, sabotage, blackmail, corporate disputes, illegal acts, and personal relationships. These topics serve the purpose of enhancing this committee's direction and engage with delegates in formal debate. These ideas exist in this background guide for the overall success of this committee, and the actions and doings in this committee should by no means be replicated in real-world conduct.

Equity Concerns

Bullying and discrimination are unwelcomed practices at CPSSMUN. All attendees of CPSSMUN XIII will be made safe, welcomed, and appreciated, thanks to the efforts of our teacher supervisor and the Secretariat team. In the event that any CPSSMUN Staff, Secretariat, or Delegate acts inappropriate, or invokes uncomfortability, please contact our Equity Officer at cpssmodelunequity@gmail.com. This can be done at any time leading up to, during, or after the conference.

Directors' Letter

Dear Delegates,

We hope this message finds you well. We are thrilled to have you participate in CPSSMUN XII's simulation of Modern Family! Our names are Ria Sharma and Eesha Modugula, and we will be your directors for this committee. Over the past years, Modern Family has grown to become our shared comfort show. From the comedy to the family wholesomeness, this show has a special place in our hearts. Running this committee has been a dream for us since grade 9, and now we're seeing this come to life as seniors.

Family dynamics have never proven to be simple, especially when you're dealing with some big personalities, like those from the show. As delegates, your job is to step into the shoes of these characters and emanate their loving, messy, and dramatic personas. But to succeed in this committee, your goal shouldn't be acting the most like your characters. Instead, we recommend that you work alongside your fellow delegates and don't be afraid to speak your mind!

In this committee, we will be diving headfirst into the challenges that come along with keeping a modern family, such as this one, functional. Our committee revolves around big corporate drama, wedding chaos, and household rivalries being brought to light through politics. To succeed, you will need to be able to think on your feet, balance personal goals with the wellness of the family, and expect the unexpected!

As your directors, we highly encourage you to familiarize yourself with the show, as it will be useful to understand the context and relationships within the committee. (Disclaimer: This does not mean you have to watch the entire show). Hopefully, this committee presents you with an opportunity to step into the shoes of beloved characters, fine-tune your communication skills, and explore the world of Modern Family. It was a great pleasure of ours to write this committee, and we hope you enjoy participating in it as much as we enjoyed creating it!

Best of luck, Fam!
Ria Sharma & Eesha Modugula
Directors of Modern Family

Background Information

The world of Modern Family has always revolved around one thing: family. What began as three separate households all linked through Jay Pritchett and his children, Claire and Mitchell. Together, the Pritchett, Dunphy, and Tucker families form a modern-day network of relationships, responsibilities, and constant conflict. While their world may be perpetually chaotic, a peaceful balance has always kept this family from falling into chaos. At its core, the balance comes from their drive to stay connected and boldly lay everything out in the open. However, now that delicate balance is unfurling at an unsettling speed as hidden secrets come to life, cutthroat competition arises, and heated rivalries reach a breaking point. The trust that once held this family close is breaking apart… Now, with all their legacies and relationships hanging on a thread, will this modern family rebuild their foundations or crumble under the pressure?

At the top of the family tree sits Jay Pritchett and his multimillion-dollar closet business: Pritchett's Closets and Blinds. Years upon years of undisputed domination in the industry came to a sudden stop when Jay announced his retirement, creating a chaotic power struggle among his family. To long-time board members, high-priority stakeholders, and loyal clients, Claire Dunphy is the obvious successor to Jay's empire, given her previous experience working for Jay. However, internal uproar amongst the company's seasoned employees and advisors insists that the market is evolving and Pritchett's Closets and Blinds is falling behind. Demands to ditch the traditional woodworking route and pivot to smart closets and high-tech features only grow louder over time, and employees aren't sure whether Claire will be the one to deliver it. Don't be mistaken, this is far more than a corporate battle. From community outreach and viral Instagram campaigns to backstabbing alliances, legal shortcuts, and external business sabotage, this fight for power is multifaceted in every sense of the word. Every player in this game - from obvious shoe-ins to underdog puppetmasters, teens with public sway, and outside rivals with dirt - all hold equal sway in this race to glory.

Meanwhile, the fam's personal lives are spiraling into turmoil with just as much speed. The heavily anticipated wedding of Cam and Mitchell is a mere five hours away, but a tsunami-sized wave of logistical issues suddenly hit this pair on their special day! Tuxedos being held captive, missing rings, and a heated venue conflict with a local big shot have

turned what was supposed to be the happiest day of the couple's life into complete anarchy. As feelings of doom take over and the finger-pointing escalates, Cam and Mitchell begin to rethink the entirety of their relationship. But the crisis goes far beyond just both the grooms: every single family member, guest, and seemingly outsider holds crucial leverage with their unique set of strengths and skills. Whether it's done by participating in emergency negotiations, calling in back-up, or playing devil's advocate, every individual has the power to either save the day…or ruin it entirely.

The final cherry on top of this monstrous cake, a simple school election between Luke and Manny has escalated into a full-blown political war. What starts as a race for student council president quickly turns into an all-out battle for popularity, power, and romantic favour. The aggression is only further fueled by Clair and Gloria, with each of them recruiting anybody they can to help with their planned sabotage, extortion, and nasty tricks. This election goes far beyond just a two-man fight. Every character is all in, mentoring in campaign tactics, aiding in sabotage, and inserting their own agendas. In a race where every vote can be manipulated, the victory could belong to anyone. Everyone has the opportunity to tip the scales, either in the favour of Manny or Luke, or to themselves…

Everything is occurring at once. Business, family, and personal conflicts are colliding, forcing difficult decisions under extreme pressure. The family is no longer just dealing with everyday problems; they are facing decisions that will define their future... Alliances will form. Loyalties will be tested. In a family built on connection, the greatest question remains: What happens when that connection starts to break? Delegates must navigate loyalty, ambition, and chaos in a way where every choice carries consequences for the family's future.

Because in this family, nothing ever stays simple for long…

Topics of Discussion

Topic #1: Who Inherits the Legacy? The Pritchett Closets & Blinds Power Struggle

Pritchett's Closets & Blinds is a closet and blinds manufacturing company founded and owned by Jay Pritchett for many years. Jay and Earl were once business partners who co-founded the closet company Closet-fornia, which became successful by attracting high-end clients, including possible celebrity customers. However, their partnership ended when Jay arrived at work one day to find that Earl had removed his belongings and damaged Jay's reputation by speaking negatively about him to their client network. The betrayal severely impacted Jay, forcing him to rebuild the company from the ground up. For years, Jay has ruled this industry with little to no competition. As the founder, his entire life has been defined by decisions made in the boardroom, corporate deals, and competition with his rivals. But age has officially caught up to Jay, and the burnout that comes alongside it is relentless. Looking around himself, Jay has realised the countless memories he's missed amongst his family. Watching Claire and Mitchell take care of their own families and his youngest son Joe growing up right in front of him has Jay wondering where all the time has gone. He's finally reached his wit's end, the point where he no longer wishes to slave away at his desk. Instead, he wants to live out his glory days with Gloria by his side and relax while he still has it in him. So, without the slightest bit of warning, Jay drops the bomb once and for all: He's officially stepping down as boss! But it's just not that simple. A long-standing family business is now at stake; who should the company go to? With Jay stepping down, the company urgently needs a new owner or leadership structure. Delegates must quickly determine who will inherit control of the company, whether through individual ownership, shared leadership, or another form of cooperation to run the company. A decision is needed immediately because without a clear successor, the company risks financial instability, internal conflict, and disruption to its daily operations. The future of the business depends on establishing new leadership before these problems threaten the company's survival. It has been speculated that Claire might be the "shoe-in" for the CEO position because she has been working diligently alongside Jay. Claire is knowledgeable about the logistics and how to run the company, making her eligible to take the authoritarian role of the CEO. However, Claire

might not be cut out for this lifestyle, as she has been a stay-at-home mom ever since she had Haley. Adjusting to this new lifestyle may be a challenge for Claire, but other delegates can step up, especially those who are still young and searching for a full-time job. This decision has created company blocs within the family and associated stakeholders, with key business-minded individuals and those with direct connections to Pritchett Closets and Blinds competing for influence over the company's future. While some family members may have personal connections to Jay, not everyone has the experience, interest, or involvement necessary to participate in corporate decision-making. More importantly, the company needs a new CEO who can provide a fresh perspective and mindset, rather than simply continuing Jay's existing approach. Tensions escalate as evidence emerges of a possible rival company preparing a takeover, alongside suspicions of internal betrayal; maintaining the same business approach could prevent the company from adapting to these challenges. A new CEO could create a fresh start, implement new strategies, and provide a stronger direction for the company's long-term success. As media leaks expose confidential company history and past decisions, trust within the organization deteriorates rapidly. Delegates must navigate issues of leadership succession, corporate loyalty, and making fair decisions while responding to other factors that place both the company's stability and Jay's legacy in jeopardy.

Guiding Questions

1. What strategies should be taken to identify and overpower the rival company?
2. Should the focus be on controlling public perception or addressing internal issues first?
3. Would it be better to stick to a safe option for the new CEO? Or take a risk and select an outsider to take the closet industry by storm?
4. What are the advantages of exploring multiple CEO candidates rather than immediately choosing one individual to lead the company?

Topic #2: The Tucker-Pritchett Wedding Emergency

Right after their engagement, Cam insisted he and Mitchell catch a flight down to Missouri in order to see their town psychic to decide on an auspicious wedding date. Mitchell complained about how unreasonable it is to make a trip across the country just for some loony lady's opinion. Cam's face dropped; he switched the lights and grabbed the nearest flashlight. Holding the flashlight under his face, he entered story mode. "Mitchell… this woman is no loony… She told my neighbor, Sheila, to get married on January 16th. Of course, like the rebel she is, Sheila got married in the summertime just as she had always dreamed. Big mistake. Long story short, her husband was struck by a mysterious bolt of lightning as they were reading their vows to each other. Tragic, yes, I know." Mitchell wore an unimpressed expression on his face but saw how much this meant to Cam. Next thing he knew, Mitch was buying 2 tickets to Missouri. In a nutshell, the psychic decided the most auspicious date would be May 14th!

Finally, the date has arrived… hurry up, delegates! T-minus five hours until Cam Tucker and Mitchell Pritchett officially marry each other. While this should be a joyous event… it descends into chaos! A series of unpredictable logistical mishaps take place: Mitch's tux is being held captive at the dry cleaners; where the owners have gone for vacation and locked his suit inside, the rings have gone missing, and the venue is at the risk of being cancelled due to an overlapping double booking with the mayor's son's Bar Mitzvah (who has declared he has absolutely no intention of switching dates or venues). Delegates are tasked to think outside the box and explore unexpected areas to locate the mysteriously missing wedding rings. Their speedy solutions are needed for regaining control of this high-pressure situation and ensuring the wedding sails smoothly! Due to Cam's story about Sheila, Mitchell is starting to believe that something horrid would happen if the wedding date changes, and all would go wrong between the two of them. After 10 years of loving each other and raising a kid together, everything would go to waste because of this lack of planning. In order to ensure the wedding date is fixed on the 14th, delegates must agree on solutions, distribute responsibilities, and make sure that ALL issues are dealt with. This stressful environment is further amplified by the presence of strong characters that have some dramatic tendencies, which may interfere with rational decision-making. To successfully

manage this catastrophe, delegates will need to be able to balance crisis management, negotiation, and adaptation.

Guiding Questions

1. How should Mitch and Cam evaluate the risks and benefits of postponing their wedding compared to moving forward despite the challenges they face?
2. Once the central emergency of the wedding date itself is dealt with, which of the underlying factors (the rings, Mitch's tux, or venue scheduling) should delegates hold to the highest priority?
3. How can delegates effectively divide responsibilities and collaborate under pressure to resolve multiple problems within a limited five-hour time frame?

Topic #3: Place Your Bets: Luke or Manny?

What started as the average yearly student council election quickly dissolves into pure political war. The president represents the students of the school at board meetings and coordinates highly coveted school events; however, in this race, politics are just a cover-up for a petty feud. The election rivalry started after Manny had misinterpreted a thoughtless comment by his crush of the week, claiming she prefers "authoritative men", and what's more authoritative than a president! All the while, a clueless Luke launches a (pathetic) attempt at hitting on the same girl. When Manny confronts Luke about boy code and how he should not have pursued "his woman", an explosive argument broke out between the two, almost becoming physical. In a fit of rage, Luke decided he wanted to enter the race just to spite Manny; winning the election and the girl would be the ultimate slap in the face. The feud quickly spread to each contestant's competitive mothers: Gloria and Claire. They don't hesitate to engage in foul play:

Gloria's Ultimatum: "Drop out of the race or you won't be allowed to throw your banger end-of-the-year pool party at the Pritchett house pool."

Claire's Counter: "Manny, I've stolen your prized bow tie collection and hidden it away. I will not hesitate to rip the whole thing to shreds unless you give up"

While both candidates deeply fear losing what they love the most, they both refuse to back down on their honour as men (boys).

Team Luke: The Dunphy Clan + Dylan

- Claire Dunphy: Self-appointed campaign mom-ager, driven by motherly pride and an unhealthy obsession with slightly humiliating Gloria
- Phil Dunphy: Ultimate boy dad, supports Luke wholeheartedly. Able to provide dad jokes, old school PR stunts from his real estate days, and unconditional love.
- Haley Dunphy: Reluctant and slightly over her older sister. Her power lies in her large social media outreach, general popularity, and gossip.
- Dylan Marshall: Just there to support his girlfriend! But he is surprisingly really introspective and unintentionally provides great advice that may come in handy when things get overwhelming.

Team Manny: Pritchett Gang + Andy

- Gloria Delgado-Pritchett: Campaign manager. Great at extortion and gets her way with her undeniable Spanish charm. Willing to go to far lengths to save her son's pride
- Jay Pritchett: Supporting Manny from behind the scenes with hefty funding and good ol' corporate tactics
- Andy Bailey: Using his sophistication to act as Manny's primary speechwriter and organizer. Specializes in dramatic rhetoric to get his point across. Also, weirdly invested in keeping the integrity of the election, really wants it to be fair.
- Joe Pritchett: Uses his ultimate cuteness and wit to persuade Jay and Gloria to take on more extreme and flashy marketing approaches, thoroughly believing that's what's needed to beat Luke; swag!

The Wildcards:

- Alex Dunphy: Provides killer data analytics and insights that nobody else has access to. Willing to sell information that can be the catalyst to a win for the right price.
- Mitchell and Cameron: Through Cam's coaching job at the high school, they've both uncovered the possible key to winning the election that nobody else seems to know…
- Lilly Tucker-Pritchett: Operates in the shadows of the family get-togethers. Having done so for numerous years has led to her having some high-profile dirt on both candidates.
- Gil Thorpe: Has numerous sneaky tactics that can launch the meanest of smear campaigns, all tried and true on his rival, Phil

Campaign Requirements:

1. Deliver a speech, as a team, to persuade the student body to vote for each candidate
2. Hand-design unique campaign pins to build candidate publicity
3. Compose a beautiful Candidate theme song to capture the hearts of the entire school

The race is on, delegates!

Guiding Questions

1. How can delegates maintain control over their campaigns and decision-making?
2. What strategies can candidates use in their speeches to effectively persuade the student body and gain support for their campaigns?
3. How could merging parties or establishing co-presidents impact collaboration, representation, and the overall success of student leadership?

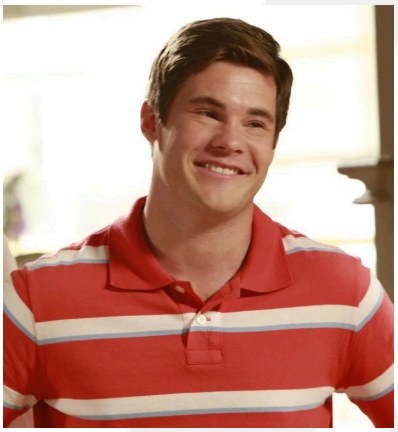
Character List

Character Name	Character Description
 **Claire Dunphy**	Claire is highly organized, controlling, and deeply invested in maintaining family order. She is the control freak who will protect the family's reputation at all costs, especially regarding Jay's closet company and the wedding chaos. Currently, she works within Jay's closet company and serves as a caring mother to Haley, Luke, and Alex. She aims to preserve stability in her family life while quietly maneuvering toward leadership influence in the company. Her strength is strategic planning and management, but her weakness is her over-controlling behaviour and emotional rigidity.
 **Phil Dunphy**	Phil is optimistic, persuasive, and often unintentionally involved in causing or worsening issues because of his naivety and real estate endeavours. He wants to be seen as competent and influential in both the family and in the eyes of Jay. His strength is charm and creative problem solving, but his weakness is gullibility and poor judgement under pressure. He tends to favour unconventional, emotionally driven solutions rather than strict logical ones. Phil is a loving husband to Claire and father to Haley, Alex, and Luke.
 **Haley Dunphy**	Haley is your typical teenage girl. She's socially savvy, self-interested, and focused on personal image. Anytime there's any issue, her go-to is focusing on how this impacts someone's reputation and how to convey this on social media. She wants independence and influence, especially if media attention from the closet company or wedding scandal rises. Her strength is adaptability and public perception management, but her weakness is impulsiveness and short-term thinking. She avoids responsibility unless it benefits her directly; hence her

	relationships with Dylan and Andy. Haley chooses Dylan to avoid the pressure of growing up, but steps up for Andy because his respect makes the hard work of emotional maturity feel worth it.
 **Alex Dunphy**	Alex, the self-proclaimed "nerd" of the Dunphy family. She's smart, analytical, and always a few steps ahead of everyone. She responds to crises like a set of math problems; methodical, with a bit of judgement, and believing that everyone is making things harder than they seem. Alex is one of the few members of the family that can see through manipulation and plotted betrayal; it all comes down to whether or not anyone actually listens to her before everything spirals. Her intelligence is her strength, but her weakness is her blunt nature that people perceive as "know-it-all".
 **Luke Dunphy**	Luke is unpredictable, creative, and often unintentionally involved in triggering disagreements because of his experiments or misunderstandings. He wants recognition and validation, as he is the youngest sibling. This is prominent in competitions like student council president or family business involvement. His strength is creativity and willingness to take risks, but his weakness is lack of foresight and consistency. He tends to unintentionally escalate situations rather than resolve them.
 **Jay Pritchett**	Jay is the central authority figure whose retirement and closet company drive several issues within the family. He is focused on legacy, control, and ensuring the company remains stable and profitable after his departure. He still has some doubts about his daughter, Claire, as she has been working alongside him for the past couple of months. Jay wants to ensure Claire actually wants

	the intense responsibility of running Pritchett's Closets and Blinds and isn't just accepting it out of a sense of family obligation. His strength is leadership and business experience, but his weakness is stubbornness and difficulty trusting others. However, he is a loving husband to Gloria and adores his children (Claire, Mitchell, Manny, and Joe), along with his grandchildren.
 **Gloria Delgado**	Gloria is passionate, protective, and highly emotionally driven, especially when family loyalty is challenged. She is motivated by securing stability for her children, Manny and Joe, alongside maintaining influence in Jay's business decisions, by using her charm and grit to rescue challenging business meetings. Her strength is emotional persuasion and loyalty, but her weakness is impulsiveness and defensiveness. She reacts strongly to disrespect or exclusion in decision-making, as she believes she belongs in the outgroup due to her different family roots.
 **Manny Delgado**	Manny is a very imaginative kid who treats small situations such as school elections like a high-stakes political campaign. In his student council era, his motivation comes from wanting to appeal to a girl he likes, making his decision-making highly irrational. This is where his weakness comes in; he often cares too much about others' opinions of him, not thinking accurately in socially stressful conditions. As a result, he pushes himself into impulsive or overly dramatic decisions. On the other hand, he's highly articulate and polished in presentation and framing himself.

 **Joe Pritchett**	Joe is the youngest, but one of the most unintentionally influential figures in modern family dynamics. While he doesn't directly partake in company planning or politics, he is able to take control of the situation from behind the scenes by using Gloria and Jay to do his bidding. His strength in this committee is his discreet influence, being able to push his views without engaging in politics himself. However, his weakness comes from needing other figures to carry out his wishes, as he is often seen as "not understanding" what's going on around him.
 **Cameron (Cam) Tucker-Pritchett**	Cam is theatrical, emotionally intense, and highly reactive. His relationship with Mitchell has lasted around 10 years, yet now they are getting married, considering same sex marriages have become legal in America. During the wedding scandal, he is overstimulated because of his ex (Bo) returning and causing a series of unfortunate events, including profound feelings for Cam's sister, Pam. He is focused on maintaining emotional harmony while managing public perception of the wedding. His strength is emotional influence and leadership in social situations, but his weakness is overreacting and impulsive reactions. He tends to escalate emotional conflict while trying to resolve it.
 **Mitchell Tucker-Pritchett**	Mitchell is rational, cautious, and often uncomfortable with chaos. He had a fear of something going wrong regarding unpredictable guests and emotional confrontations at his wedding. Over the years, Mitchell has always had the urge to prove to Jay that he is capable of doing things that Jay doesn't believe Mitchell can do. As a lawyer, he prioritizes order, control, and avoiding public embarrassment. His strength is legal thinking, but his weakness is rigidity and avoidance of emotional confrontation.

 **Lily Tucker-Pritchett**	Lily is a sarcastic and emotionally detached young lady. As the daughter of Mitchell and Cam, she is often involved in adult chaos with unexpected clarity. She was adopted from Vietnam while only a couple of months old. In later seasons, we see her act as an outside perspective on the family's dysfunction. Her strength is awareness and blunt honesty, but her weakness is emotional disengagement. She often highlights hypocrisy within the family without actively intervening.
 **Andy Bailey**	Andy is hardworking, emotionally conflicted, and optimistic, similar to Phil. At times, he is caught between his personal feelings and his occupation (with Haley). While working alongside Phil as a real estate agent, Andy has gained some insight into the family dynamics. His strength is reliability and emotional depth, but his weakness is passive behaviour. He struggles to assert dominance and take control of a situation.
 **Dylan Marshall**	Dylan is loyal, simple-minded, and passionate, often acting out of love for Haley rather than strategic thinking. He wants acceptance and stability in his relationship with Haley and the family. His strength is loyalty and sincerity, but his weakness is lack of intelligence and poor decision-making. He tends to worsen situations unintentionally while trying to help.

 **Gil Thorpe**	Gil Thorpe is a charismatic businessman who is keen on undermining others in order to get ahead, especially when it comes to the matter of Pritchett's closets and Blinds. He operates with a fixed goal of messing with his arch-nemesis, Phil Dunphy. He will do anything to come between Phil's success, and that means meddling and turning the family against each other. Gil and Phil are competing real estate agents in the same local market. However, Gil struggles with maintaining genuine loyalty and over-aggression, leading to the fall of his alliances.

Citations

Modern Family Wiki. “Characters.” Modern Family Wiki. Fandom, Inc., 2025. https://modernfamily.fandom.com/wiki/Category:Characters.

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