

Why Was I Fired?

Read the following scenario. Based on the information discussed in class, decide the reason the person was terminated. Answer the questions at the end of the scenario. Be prepared to explain your reasoning in class.

Paula worked in a sewing factory that manufactured children's clothing. Her mother had been a seamstress and had taught Paula a lot about how to sew. The supervisor admired Paula's work and always commented on her speed. Paula did not have very many friends at work. She did not understand why. She was always very eager to help others and went out of her way to thread needles, change thread, and so on, for co-workers.

Paula did not spend a lot of time grooming in the mornings. She had body odor, and others found it offensive. The supervisor had tried to tell her in a polite way, but Paula did not get the message. One day Paula overheard several of the women talking and laughing about buying her a bar of soap, deodorant, and a wash cloth for her birthday. Paula went over and slapped one of the women. Paula was fired. Why was she fired? Should she have been fired? Did the supervisor do his/her job correctly? Would you want to work with Paula? Why or why not?