# Quid pro quo:

## How it's used virtually everywhere

**Quid pro quo [ˌkwid-ˌprō-ˌkwō]** is Latin for "something for something." On its face, a quid pro quo has no moral value. Its meaning takes on a spectrum of colors and shades. For instance, it could be a tacit cultural expectation or something entirely negative and illegal.

Here, we break down the phrase into various uses and their context by color swatches to help you paint an informed and intelligent view of the world.

# Why it was first used

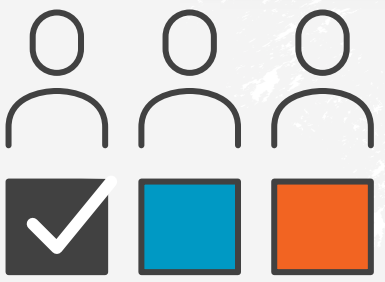
## ***Costlier*** **drug** *for* ***cheaper*** **drug**

16th century apothecary practice of substituting one drug for another with adulterated contents.

# Politics

## ***Bribe*** *for* **political** ***influence***

Not all political quid pro quo activity is negative, but bribes darken the picture.

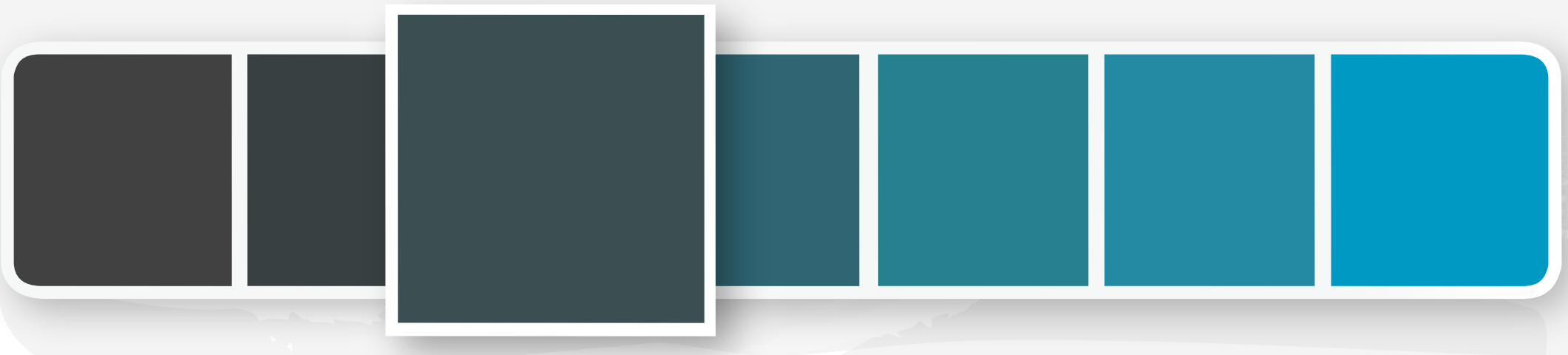


# Workplace

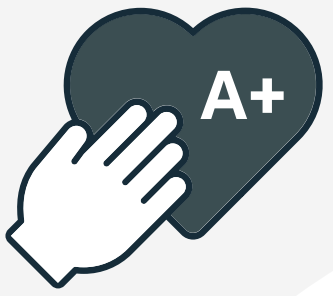
## **Sexual** ***favor*** *for* ***promotion***

Though mutual teamwork and partnership should color quid pro quo situations, sexual harassment tends to overshadow the workplace.

# Education

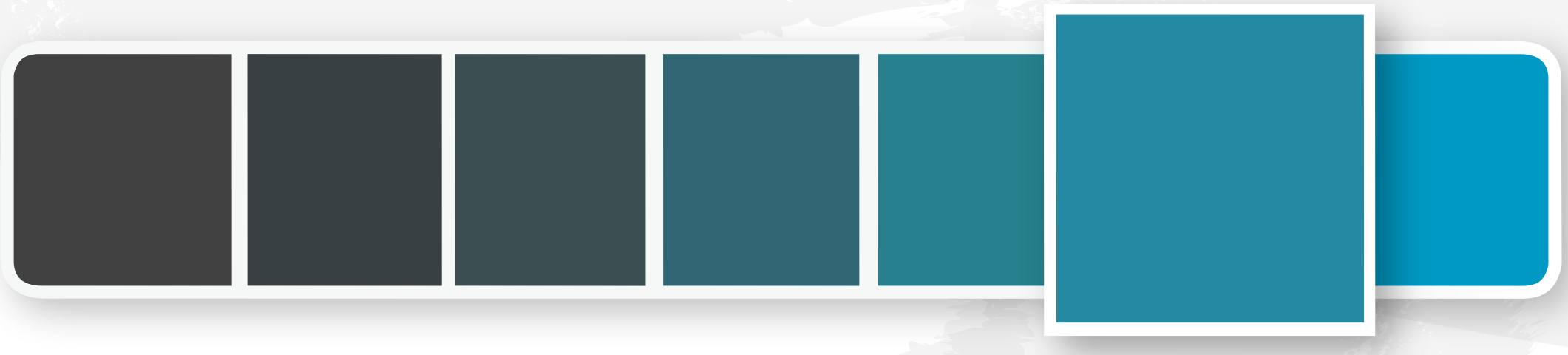


## Sexual *favor* for better *grades*




Similarly quid pro quo sexual harassment often takes headlines in education settings.

# Business



## Insider *information* for personal *gain*

Much of business is essentially a set of equal exchanges. However, insider trading adds some negative tones.

# Culture

## *"I tell* you things" for *"you tell* me things"

— Hannibal Lecter to Clarice Starling, ***"Silence of the Lambs."*** Films, shows, music, and all cultural mediums feature the full spectrum of quid pro quo examples.

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# Everyday life

## I *cook* dinner *for* you *clean*

While bribery and pro bono work are two extremes of quid pro quo activity, the lion's share of the palette lies in the middle of everyday life and relationships.

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