



UCI Criminology Outreach Program (COP)

Exercise: WHAT IS CRIME?

ACTIVITY OUTLINE

- I Introduce a definition of crime
- II. Give out handout
- III. Students decide what actions should be considered criminal and give reasons why. Students rank actions from most serious to least serious using a scale from 1-10.
- IV. Break out in discussion groups with COP students and have H.S. students discuss and explain why they think a certain type of behavior constitutes as criminal, while some behavior is not seen as criminal. (NOTE: Labeling certain behavior or acts as criminal may vary from person to person, culture to culture, from environment to environment, situation from situation etc...) Additionally discuss the variance, if any, in the ranking order students give each behavior
- V. Bringing it all together: We choose a criminal behavior that received an equal distribution of pro/con opinions in each group and have a class discussion at the end with two divided groups. Repeat for other criminal behavior if time permits.

Directions: Rank each crime on a scale of 1 through 5 (giving it a 1,2,3,4, or 5) 5 being most criminal offense and 1 being the least criminal offense

- _____ Leo pickpockets a person on the bus. The wallet contains 5 credit cards and \$50.00 cash.
- _____ Sabrina and Alyra sell marijuana joints to their friends after school in the bathroom.
- _____ Amanda tells people on the street not to shop at Nordstrom's, protesting that they treat minorities unfairly.
- _____ Cesar is caught with two ounces of marijuana.
- _____ Maronel parks in a handicap zone and she is not handicapped! Nor are any of her passengers!
- _____ Kirsten is caught with two kilos of marijuana
- _____ Dr. Dombrink sells and distributes prescription drugs to patients addicted to speed. His rationale is that at least they are receiving the speed from a professional who knows his stuff, and he can guarantee its pureness.
- _____ Eduardo saw his best friend shoplift. He stood in front of his friend while his friend placed the stolen items in his pocket.
- _____ Claudia is an employee of Microsoft Corporation. She gives her friends and family software that she orders using the company name and account.
- _____ You are taking a nice stroll down a park. You notice that a blind man is approaching an intersection, you see the blind man feel his way toward the intersection with his walking stick. The blind man fails to stop at the intersection and proceeds to cross the road with oncoming traffic. You stop and think about saying something but you just stand there and witness everything, and choose not to get involved.