

Name: _____
Date: _____

Noughts & crosses
Exploring timeless social issues

Offense Defined (dictionary.com):

1. a violation or breaking of a social or moral rule; transgression; sin.
2. a transgression of the law; misdemeanor.
3. a cause of transgression or wrong.

Directions Part 1: Consider the following social offenses:

- Rank each offense between 1 and 4 in the degree of seriousness
- **1 = most serious; 4 = least serious**
- In small groups, compare your answers with each other.
- Why does one person rank an offense with a 1, while another person ranks the same offense as a 3?
- Discuss your differences in opinion and support/defend your rankings
- Answer the two follow-up questions

- _____ Planning to trick someone
- _____ Lying to parents
- _____ Two families having a feud
- _____ Cursing/using profanity
- _____ Suicide
- _____ Picking a fight
- _____ Using violence
- _____ Killing someone in self-defense
- _____ Killing someone by mistake while fighting
- _____ Killing someone for revenge

1. Which of the rankings above are non-negotiable (nothing with change your mind)? List them below with a brief explanation of why.

2. Which rankings did you reconsider based on your classmates' rationale? List them below with a brief explanation of why.

Directions Part 2: When you have completed your discussion on ranking, answer each question individually below with 3-5 complete sentences. Be prepared to discuss as a class.

1. What do the above offenses/situations have in common? Explain.

2. Select one of the social offenses listed above and discuss which character attributes (see table) are lacking in a person that would commit such an act.

Character Attributes

- Respect
- Honesty
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Loyalty
- Self-discipline
- Courtesy
- Trustworthiness
- Compassion
- Integrity

3. What factors do you think contribute to a person participating in this offense?