ROLE PLAY SCENARIOS

Role-play various situations where one or more students are under pressure to be dishonest.

1. Your four-year-old nephew asks you if Santa Claus is real. You can tell by the way he asks that he still wants to believe in Santa Claus. Are you lying if you say yes? Give a reason for your opinion and look at both sides.

2. You’re living in Belgium during World War II, and you’re secretly hiding a Jewish family in your attic. The police show up at your door and ask if you’re harboring Jews. Do you lie or tell the truth? Are there times when you might make a greater mistake by telling the truth than by lying? Give other examples that support your opinion.

3. The President of the United States has learned about a new communications device that will allow the U.S. government to discover where other countries store their weapons. The same device can also be used to snoop on people in the U.S. Is the President obligated to tell the people about the new device? Why or why not?
4. Your friend Evan is popular, well liked, and a great soccer player. Your school’s soccer team is competing for first place in the district, and Evan is key to winning. During math class this morning, you saw him cheat on an important test. No one else noticed. If the teacher found out, Evan would be kicked off the soccer team. Is it your responsibility to report what you saw? Is it anyone’s responsibility? What are the consequences of reporting? What might be the consequences of not reporting?

□ You’re paying for school supplies at your local discount store. The store is part of a huge chain with hundreds of stores across the country. When the cashier rings up your purchases, she undercharges you $10 by mistake. You could call it to her attention...or you could donate the $10 to a local homeless shelter you’ve been helping. You wouldn’t be keeping the money for yourself, and the shelter needs it more than the big corporation that owns the store...right? Do you put the $10 in your wallet and leave? Why or why not?