



### ACTIVITY: 'HARD CHOICES'

**TIME:** 20+ minutes  
**SIZE:** For pairs  
**SPACE:** For pair/s to sit opposite  
**RESOURCES:** Overhead Transparency (p.68 or SenseAbility CD), pens, paper

**The aim** is to place students in an imaginary situation where their Sense of Purpose must encompass individual purpose and common purpose.

**The result** should be class discussion about how Sense of Purpose is based on, and underpinned by, our values and beliefs.

1. Project the Hard Choices Overhead Transparency.
2. Either break the class into pairs, or select a pair to perform in front of the class.
3. Explain the scenario: the pair plays two criminals who have been arrested on suspicion of involvement in a jewellery heist. There is not enough evidence for charges yet, so the two have been separated and each offered the same deal by police:
  - if you testify against your co-accused and he/she remains silent, you go free and your co-accused gets 10 years' jail
  - if you both remain silent, you both get six months' jail on a minor charge
  - if both of you 'betray' one another (i.e. both agree to testify) then you both receive a five year sentence.
4. Allow the pair/s two minutes to deliberate. Naturally, they are not allowed to speak with one another during this time.
5. Announce 'decision time' and each 'crim' must write down either 'testify' or 'silent' without the other seeing. Slips of paper are placed face down between them.
6. Allow the pair to read each other's decision, and discover what fate awaits them.
7. Variation: break into teams of four, so each 'crim' has a 'lawyer' with whom they can consult for advice.



### DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- How difficult was it to weigh up individual Sense of Purpose (i.e. stay out of jail) against a group Sense of Purpose (i.e. minimise time in jail for you both)? What decision-making factors played in your mind?
- Even though this is make-believe and you are not a jewel thief, how did your own value system (i.e. your own sense of what is right and wrong, and what is fair and decent) factor in your decision making?
- Discuss how sometimes we have to make decisions that impact both ourselves and others. Brainstorm some real life (and lawful!) examples.
- Discuss how our Sense of Purpose reflects our values and beliefs, and how the things we aim to achieve reflect the things that give our lives meaning. How can a strong Sense of Purpose stand by us in uncertain circumstances?