Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Romeo and Juliet: Exploring Timeless Social Issues

Before Reading the Play

Consider the following 14 social offenses. Rank each action in order of seriousness, with 1 being the most serious and 14 the least serious. Be prepared to give reasons for your choices.

When you have completed the ranking, answer each question below. Then, when everyone in your group has completed the assignment, begin your discussion.

Discuss the items in which your group finds the most difference of opinion. Support your opinions with evidence, rather than simply assuming that others should blindly agree with you because you stated an opinion.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Planning to trick someone

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lying to parents

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Killing someone for revenge

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Advising someone to marry for money

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Two families having a feud

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Selling poison

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Killing someone by mistake while fighting

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cursing

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Killing someone in self-defense

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Suicide

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Crashing a party

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Marrying against parents’ wishes

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Giving an obscene gesture

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Picking a fight

Character Attributes

\_\_\_ Respect

\_\_\_Honesty

\_\_\_Fairness

\_\_\_ Responsibility

\_\_\_ Loyalty

\_\_\_ Self-discipline

\_\_\_ Courtesy

\_\_\_ Trustworthiness

\_\_\_ Compassion

\_\_\_ Integrity

Questions: Please respond in detailed sentences.

1. What does each of the above situations have in common? Explain.
2. Rate the character attributes to right in order of most important (number 1) to least important (number 10). Consider which attributes you find most important in a friend or family member when you respond. Be able to explain why you feel the way you do.
3. Select one of the social offenses listed above and discuss which character attributes (listed to the right) are lacking in a person who would commit such an act.
4. What factors do you think likely contribute to a person participating in this offense?