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**UNIT: SENSITIVE ISSUES**

**TOPIC: Shoplifting**  
**TIMELINE: 1-2 days**

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**OBJECTIVES:**

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After completing this unit the student will:

1. Identify the many costs and consequences of shoplifting.
  2. Role play how to prevent shoplifting situations.
  3. Discuss the reasons why people shoplift.
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**MOTIVATOR/INTRODUCTION:**

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Begin class with this announcement:

Due to the amount of items that have been stolen from the FACS room, we will no longer do any labs or activities. We will be reading from books and answering questions at the end of the chapter. If you want to do a lab it will cost \$5.00 per person, per lab. Sorry about this, but it's just the cost of people taking things that don't belong to them.

Ask students for any feedback, then lead into the activities tht deal with shoplifting.

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**INFORMATION:**

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1. **THE FACTS**--Contact your local law enforcement officers to gather local statistics concerning shoplifting. Prepare a chart or overhead transparency to present this information to the class.
  2. **WHAT IF**--Have the students discuss how they would react if they found themselves in a situation where a friend was shoplifting, if a friend expected him/her to shoplift, if they were falsely accused of shoplifting, etc.
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**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

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1. **BUSINESS OWNER**--Invite a local business owner to come and discuss the effects of shoplifting. He/she could discuss how it affects prices, how it affects business, how different businesses deal with shoplifting, etc.
  2. **POLICE OFFICER/SECURITY GUARD**--Invite a police officer or security guard to discuss the legal implications of shoplifting, why people shoplift, and the punishment a shoplifter can receive.
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**INDIVIDUALIZED ACTIVITIES:**

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1. **WHAT IS THE COST?**--Have students write a short paper explaining their viewpoints on the costs of shoplifting: who it hurts, how it affects society, what effect it would have on their families, etc. (see page 3)

## SHOPLIFTING OVERVIEW CONTINUED

2. "POSTER"--Have each student make a poster that discourages shoplifting. The posters could be hung in the school for a while, then taken to local businesses as a public relations project. When hanging posters in the school it is a good idea to hang them in the cafeteria at eye level so all students are able to see them. (see page 4)

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**GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

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"CASE STUDIES"--Have each student think of a situation which could occur to someone his/her age which would influence him/her to shoplift. They should explain the situation on a piece of paper. Divide the class into small groups and give each group several case studies to discuss. Follow with a general class discussion on the ideas they felt were most important.

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**CHALLENGE PROJECTS:**

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**SUMMARY:**

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Shoplifting is a crime that affects all of us. Prices keep going up because of the loss merchants have due to shoplifting.

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**RESOURCES:**

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