

# STEALING IDEAS



## Role-play scenario

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A school was running a Young Enterprise competition for its students. In teams, students had to come up with an original idea for a company that would be able to set up and generate a profit. There was a prize for the best idea. Team A had an idea, but they didn't think it was very good. All the same they made careful notes and kept them safe as they worked on their idea. Team B had some great ideas but they didn't keep their notes to show the ideas were theirs. Team A sent in a spy to steal the opposition's best ideas. In the end, Team A won the competition with Team B's ideas: unfortunately, Team B couldn't prove that their ideas had been stolen as they hadn't written anything down.



Explore the moral issues involved here by taking on one of the following roles:

### Team A

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**Member no. 1:** You thought up your team's idea in the first place. OK, it's not the world's most amazing idea but no one else came up with anything better, did they? You feel annoyed that your team didn't help develop your idea, and don't think they deserved to win by using Team B's ideas.

**Member no. 2:** It was your idea to make sure your team kept all its notes and workings so you could prove the ideas were yours. After all, your team had taken the trouble to come up with it so you may as write it down. Team B have got no written proof that those ideas belong to them: they should have thought more carefully about keeping a record of their work.

**Member no. 3:** You were the team's spy: your job was to find out about Team B's ideas and bring them back with you. Even though the people in Team B weren't exactly your friends, you feel pretty bad about what you did – you never expected your team would win, after all.

### Team B

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**Member no. 1:** You came up with a great idea and now Team A have taken all the credit. It's outrageous that they can lie like that in public! They think they've got away with it just because they weren't breaking copyright, but everyone knows that stealing is stealing.

**Member no. 2:** It's a shame you didn't win, but then frankly the other team had much more initiative and you have to give them credit for that. Really it's your team's fault for not recording your ideas, but how were you to know? Besides, it's only a competition after all.

**Member no. 3:** It was you who told Team A about your great idea. You feel so stupid now, but you never thought they would steal it and use it for their own. Who behaves like that? Now everyone is upset because Team A won with your idea, you're keeping quiet: they'll only get angry with you if they know.