Activity 8: Worksheet
Order in the Court

CASE 1:

Maria learns on the radio that their town will be hosting a Bon Jovi concert next month. She calls four friends and asks them if they want to go to the concert together. They all say yes and agree to give Maria money so that she can buy the tickets for everyone at the same time. She receives the money from everyone, except Alicia, the day before the tickets go on sale. Alicia tells Maria that she doesn't have the money right now because she's been sick and hasn't been working.

As it turns out, Maria has an important commitment on the day the tickets go on sale and she can't buy the tickets for everyone. So, she offers to lend Alicia the money for her ticket if she would stand in line on Saturday and buy all the tickets. Alicia agrees and Maria asks her to buy 5 tickets total, including three tickets for her friends who had already paid her.

Alicia waits in line on Saturday but was only able to buy four tickets according to the ticket seller's policy. Maria takes all four tickets for herself and three friends, and informs Alicia that she is responsible for buying her own ticket. Alicia has complained to Maria that they had a verbal and binding agreement and decides to take the case to civil court for justice.

Would you rule in favor of Alicia or Maria in this case? Explain your decision.

CASE 2:

Stan loves Snickers candy bars. Everyone he works with knows that he buys at least one every day from the vending machine in the teachers' lounge at his school. He works as a biology teacher at a junior high school and is generally at school Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sometimes teachers at the school come in on Saturday to catch up on paperwork. One Saturday, Stan's colleague Susan sees a Snickers bar in the staff lounge and eats it; after all, it doesn't have anyone's name on it. When she finishes the candy bar, she notices the large, red word 'WINNER' on the inside of the candy wrapper.

She reads in the fine print about a promotion Snickers is conducting, and the wrapper with the red 'winner' on the inside wins a million dollars. "I won!" "I won!" Susan yells with excitement.

On Monday when Stan comes to work, he remembers that he left his Snickers bar in the teachers' lounge on Friday and discovers that Susan won a million dollars from his Snickers wrapper. He says that because the candy bar was his, that the million dollars is his, too. Susan said, "No way. I found the candy in the lounge, and, since it didn't have anyone's name on it, I claimed it as my own. The money is mine." Stan took Susan to court.

Would you rule in favor of Stan or Susan in this case? Explain your decision. _____

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