



# Reasoning with Ethics

JUNE 14, 2016

A Project of The School for Ethical Education

www.ethicsed.org

*Ethics in action  
creates  
character*

*Use this blog to:*

- 1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.*
- 2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core values.*
- 3. Teach students about the four-components of ethical functioning*

This will be the last email sent for the 2015-16 school year. Have a great summer and we will resume emailing ethics cases in September.

## Restorative Justice or Extortion?



Shoplifting costs US retailers an estimated \$44 billion in 2014 as noted in a survey by the National Trade Federation and the University of Florida. As reported by CBS News (June 8, 2016) some large retailers are using a new approach provided by Correction Education Company (CEC) to have store security offer those caught in the act of shoplifting an alternative to calling the police and entering the justice system.

The CEC program is administered by the local store to offer shoplifters the opportunity to pay a \$500 fee and complete an on-line course and then be released from any further action or criminal charges from the store. CEC claims research suggesting that 98 percent of individuals who complete their on-line course do not go back to shoplifting.

This appears to be a win/win. The store and CEC are paid to reduce future shoplifting and the accused shoplifter is excused from entering the judicial system. However, not everyone is pleased with the project. The San Francisco District Attorney is referring to the program as false imprisonment and extortion and is seeking to stop the practice in his city.

Students are encouraged to review the video file here (<https://youtu.be/gZDTwGxmWvw>) and discuss the merits of the CEC program and the San Francisco DA's case. Is justice being advanced by the CEC project? Is the DA preventing some injustice?

We welcome students to post responses on our Reasoning with Ethics comment page at <http://ethicsed.org/ethicsblog>

**Contact information**

The School for Ethical Education is a not for profit teaching agency in Milford, CT with the mission to advance strategies of placing ethics in action to create character. As a non-sectarian 501(C)3, SEE is supported by fees for service, grants and donations. For more information visit our website at [www.ethicsed.org](http://www.ethicsed.org)

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