**“A Crime or Not a Crime: That is the Question”**

**Directions.** You are a member of a state commission established to evaluate laws. Consider the following acts and decide whether the act should be treated as a crime. Then determine what the punishment should be for that crime. Explain your reasoning. Then rank them by number with 1 being the most serious to 12 being the least serious. Under each write a brief explanation for your decisions.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Rick pushes crack cocaine and uses the proceeds to support his family, who is on welfare.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Melissa is a passenger in a car he knows is stolen, but she did not participate in the actual theft of

the car.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jacob picks an individuals pocket and takes a wallet containing $50.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Pete is a used car dealer who turns back the odometers on cars he sells.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Stefan is caught with a pound of marijuana.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Lauren robs a liquor store at gunpoint.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Eric leaves a store with change for a $10 bill after he realizes that he gave the cashier a $5 bill.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Anita Baker approaches a man for the purposes of prostitution.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Deion refuses to wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Neil’s paint company pollutes a river with waste material.

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. Nina drinks too much and hits a five year old with her Porsche 911 while speeding through a

school zone.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. Kemi observes her best friend Mikhail shoplifting but does not turn her in.