JUSTICE. JUSTICE.

8+

Kangaroo Court

AIM | To examine the fairness of some justice systems.

Time	45 Minutes
Material	30 Minutes
	A role card for each participant

What to do

Photocopy the role cards and ensure you have more townspeople than mobsters.
Give everyone a role card and tell them to keep it secret. Explain that they are all in a small isolated town where there has been a lot of mob related killings. Ask everyone to close their eyes.

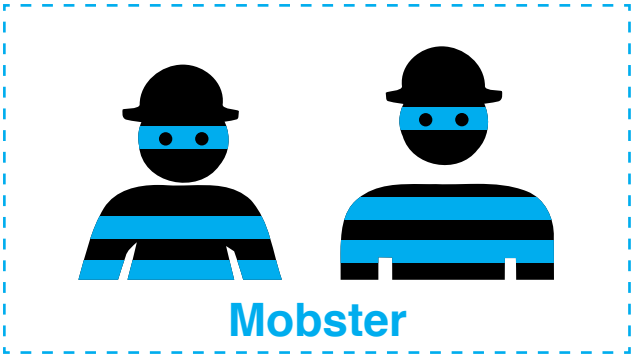
Tell the mobsters to open their eyes, look around and recognise each other and silently decide on one person to “off”. Get the mobsters to close their eyes again.

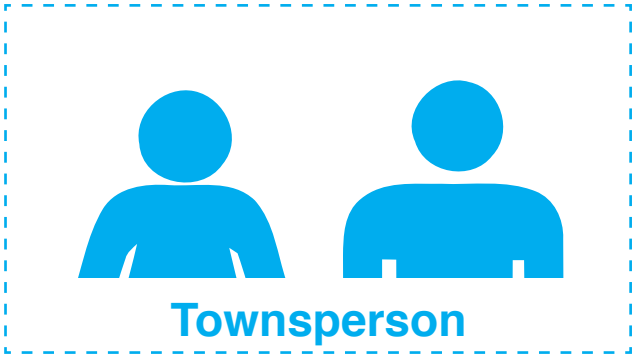
Now everyone opens their eyes, the leader tells the group who the victim was and they sit down. A town meeting is called to decide who the killer was. Each person can say who they think the killer is, after 2 minutes, tell them they have to nominate one person as killer. One person in the group can choose the punishment that they should get. The accused then shows their card to the group and reveals if they were a mobster or an innocent townsperson.

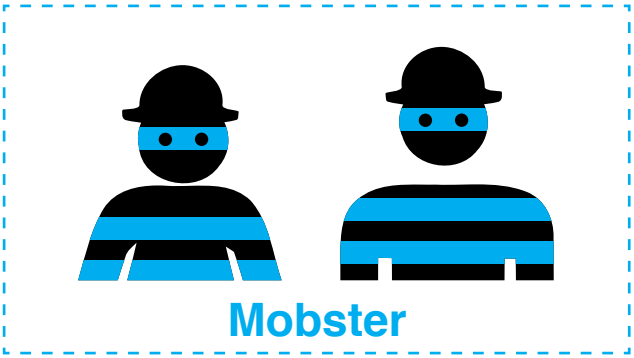
Continue the game until there are only mobsters or townsfolk left.

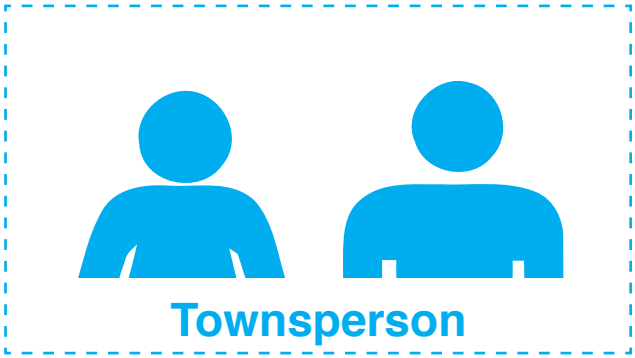
Debrief

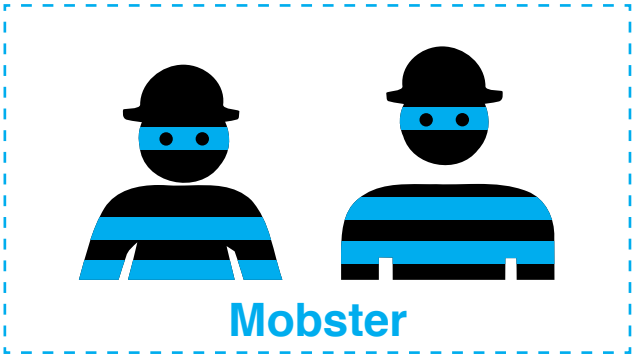
Ask people how it felt to be a mobster or a townsperson? Were they in fear? How did it feel to be accused of something you didn’t do? Were the punishments fair? Is it fair to be judged by your townspeople? Can you think of any real life examples when people have suffered for things they didn’t do? Where in the world do you think this type of thing happens?

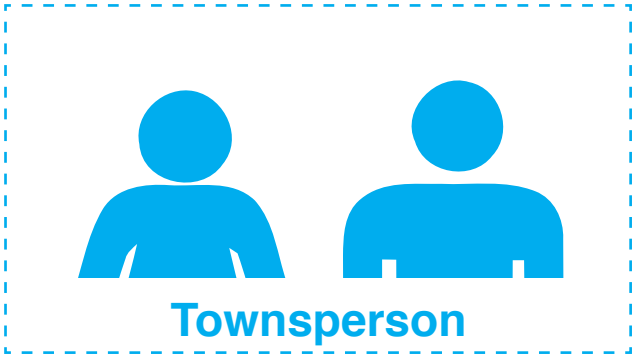


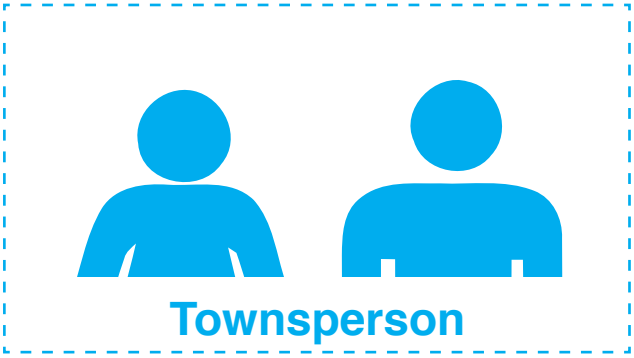


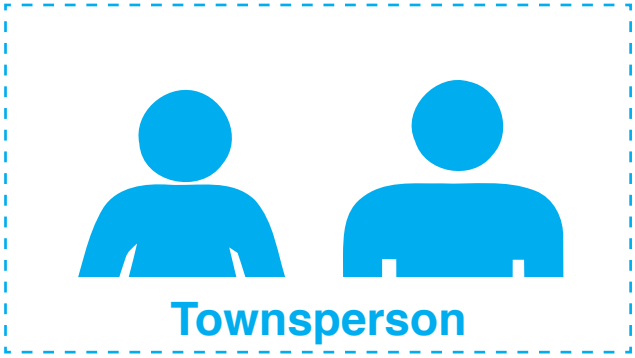












Read out the quote and ask, who does it refer to?

> ***"They rage against those who kill with knives but not those who murder with missiles"*** *Eduardo Galeano – Uruguayan Writer and Journalist*

Note to Leader

As a variation, add pieces to people's cards such as; you never speak, you smile a lot, you avoid eye contact. In the debrief, ask if this made them more vulnerable to accusation?