You’re going to Austin with your best friend to attend a concert by one of your favorite bands. You meet up with your friend’s brother and his friends, who are students at UT. While the warm-up band is playing, “Ed”, one of the people that came with your friend’s brother, asks if you want some Ecstasy. You decline, mumbling something about the health effects discussed in this paper. Ed doesn’t push the matter, but later on when the subject comes up at breakfast at Denny’s, Ed states “That’s B.S., they’ve always said those kinds of things about any drug other than alcohol or nicotine. When’s the last time you ever heard of someone dying from taking an overdose of LSD or mescaline? What about the positive effects? Everyone knows that stuff like marijuana is good for cancer patients and other really sick people. I’ll bet a lot more people die each year from taking aspirin than from taking Ecstasy.”

1. What this case is about? Working individually, spend a few minutes underlining key terms or phrases. Compare your list with your group.

2. As a group, think about what you know is related to this case and its topics. Keep track of questions that arise with the Know/Need to Know chart below. Identify 2-3 questions that your group would wish to explore further.
   a. What do we know?

   b. What do we need to know?

3. What are the short-term behavioral effects of Ecstasy and other amphetamines (e.g. meth)?

4. How and where does Ecstasy act at the cellular and molecular level?
5. What are the physiological effects of Ecstasy (brain, Central Nervous System, other?)?

6. Can you overdose on Ecstasy? What are its toxic effects?

7. What types of long-term effects can Ecstasy use have?

8. Are there any potential therapeutic uses for Ecstasy?

9. Besides Ecstasy, name 5 other illegal drugs. What are their primary effects? (e.g. why do people take them)? Why do you suppose they are illegal?

10. Are there any legitimate uses for these drugs?

11. What should be the criteria for making a drug a controlled substance (making it’s possession without a prescription a criminal offense)?