Needs vs Wants

The aim of the activity is to explore the idea of privilege and the impact of homelessness on going without.

Draw a table with two headings: ‘need’ and ‘want’.

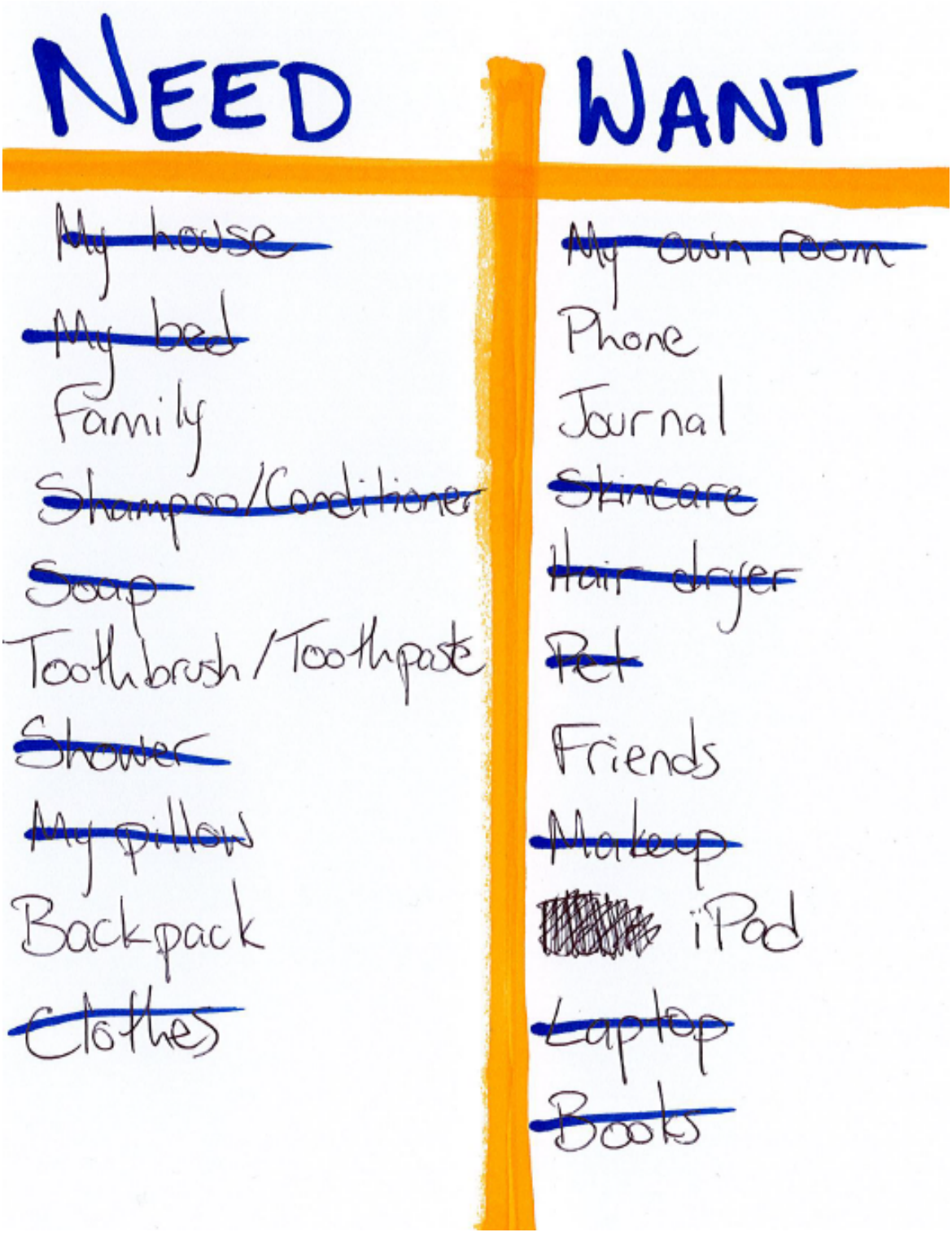
Have a group discussion about what safety and security mean.

Have the group think about their day-to-day routine (in great detail) and list all the things they use on a daily basis that contribute to this feeling of safety and security. For each item, ask the group whether it is a need or a want and then add the item under the appropriate heading.

Once you have enough items on the list, revisit the list as a group and cross off the needs and wants that might not be available to someone who is experiencing homelessness and is couch surfing with friends and family (moving from house to house every couple of days).

Reflect on the privileges in both the need and want lists that the group has available to them that they may take for granted.

Discuss as a group how not having access to their ‘wants’ would affect their day. Then discuss how not having access to their ‘needs’ would impact their day, month and year. The group should begin to understand the bigger impacts of not having the privileges that many of us take for granted.

Young Vinnies

Needs vs Wants: Student Example