

Teacher Tool 359: What It's Like to Be a Lawyer

Program Guide

Study Guide for Point to Point 2: What It's Like to Be a Lawyer

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What It's Like to Be a Lawyer
Expert: Howard Shalowitz, Attorney

Targeted Grade Levels: The program can be targeted to grades 2-12.

Availability: Program requests must be made at least two weeks prior to your desired date. This program can be scheduled Monday through Thursday, between 8 am and 8 pm Central Time. On Friday, it may be scheduled between 8 am and 3 pm Central Time. When enrolling, please let us know three possible dates and times you'd like to schedule your interaction.

Program Description:

Want to hear all about attorneys? Learn about the process of becoming a lawyer, different jobs for lawyers (solo, medium/large firm, corporate, prosecuting attorney, public defender, administrative lawyer, etc.) and explore the different areas of the law (criminal, family, probate, tax, business, real estate, litigation, workers compensation, Social Security, malpractice, etc.)? Want to explore what your career would be like if you were an attorney?

Then enroll to interact with Howard Shalowitz, St. Louis area attorney. He's ready to answer your questions and share information about the day to day aspects of his job as well as the training and skills needed for to be an attorney, different positions and areas of law available for lawyers and other topics important to you.

The program's conversation will be guided entirely by the topics you wish Howard to address and the questions your students want answered. For example, if your students are elementary or middle school students who send topics and questions focusing on general career exploration then that will be the direction of your interaction; if your students are high school civics students wanting to focus on more specific aspects of the law, then that will be the direction of your interaction. Your topic preferences and advance questions are due to us no less than three days prior to your scheduled interaction.

Meet Howard in the Program Promo Video and View Additional Program Materials at:
<https://educate.today/videos/4267>

Program Objectives:

Participants will:

1. learn what steps are needed to become a lawyer
2. explore different areas of the law
3. learn about exciting cases and developments in the law, both case law and statutory law

Program Format:

Introduction: The program will begin by exploring why someone would become a lawyer. Myths and truths about what we see on TV and in movies will be compared to the real life work of a lawyer.

Body of the program:

Topics will include:

- a. Lawyer-client confidentiality and other ethical matters

- b. The difference between criminal and civil cases
- c. Explanation of the essential parts of a trial including voir dire, opening statement, direct examination, cross examination rebuttal witnesses, objections, closing argument, jury instructions, and process of obtaining a verdict
- d. Examples of interesting legal cases and statutes based on handouts sent in advance of the program and chosen by the participating students to include in their program

Conclusion: Summary of major concepts discussed with the hope that each student comes away with a sense of what it takes to be a lawyer, the process of trying and deciding a case, and the various type of legal practices

Cost and Payment: \$80—Payment may be made via credit card or school district purchase order. Payment must be received prior to the scheduled program date.

How To Connect for the Program:

1. Via h.323 Videoconference
2. Via Skype, Zoom, or other similar desktop videoconference software

When you enroll for the program, please let us know your preferred method of connection.

To Enroll: Enrollment can occur in any of the following ways:

1. Go to our web page for the promo video for this program on our Educate.Today website at <https://educate.today/videos/4267> and click on the Sign Up button to send us your enrollment information.
2. E-mail us at info@educate.today and put “Enrolling for Lawyer Point to Point Program“ in the title of the e-mail. Please include your contact information in the e-mail and at least three proposed dates and times for your interaction.

We will respond to either method of enrollment to finalize a scheduled date for your interaction, make sure you have all program preparatory materials, and handle technical details for your method of connection including test calls.

Cancellation Policy: Once a date and time has been scheduled for your interaction, you can cancel or reschedule without penalty within 24 hours. After 24 hours and up to 7 days before your scheduled program, we’ll refund 50% of your original fee. Within 7 days of the scheduled date, we do not offer a refund. Should an uncontrollable emergency occur (i.e.: snow day, etc.), we will work with you to reschedule the program for a new date and time but should that prove impossible, we will refund 50% of your original fee. Should our program expert or other circumstance force a cancellation on our end from your original date, we will work with you to reschedule the program for a new date and time that works for you, or we will refund your purchase in full.

Pre-Program Activities:

1. Determine the Legal Cases/Statutes You’d Like to Discuss—Based on the documents sent to you after enrollment in the program, have students look over the various examples of cases and statutes they could choose to focus on in the program. Have students select no more than 3 examples and e-mail those to us along with your advance questions as described below.

3. Send Us Your Advance Questions for Your Interaction:

Work with students in advance of their interaction to determine up to the ten (10) most important questions you'd like to ask Mr. Shalowitz during your program. Send these questions to us by completing the Lawyer Point to Point Worksheet document sent to you with preparatory materials for this program and also available on our Educate.Today website at <https://educate.today/videos/4267>. E-mail it to us at info@educate.today no less than three days prior to your scheduled interaction. Additional spontaneous questions will be encouraged during the program, but these questions will be used to organize the conversation.

Post-Program Activity Suggestions:

1. Send a Thank You or Insight—Have students write a letter to Dr. Greaves detailing insight the student gained from hearing her story, an appreciation for her participation, and/or another focus area of their choice. E-mail the letter to us at info@educate.today or mail the letter to us at Educate.Today@HEC-TV 3221 McKelvey Rd #106, Bridgeton, MO 63044.

2. Interview a Local Attorney—Have the students think like an attorney, judge or juror and interview a lawyer about his/her profession and cases they have been involved with. Write an article about the interview or record the interview as a video segment. As part of our mission, Educate.Today is dedicated to publishing student work for other students to learn from. If you'd like to submit a student article or video interview for possible publication, e-mail us at info@educate.today and put "Publish Student Work" in the title line. We'll respond with next steps for possible publication.

Vocabulary:

Plaintiff – a person who brings a case against another in a court of law

Defendant – an individual, company, or institution sued or accused in a court of law

Prosecutor – a person, especially a public official, who institutes legal proceedings against someone; a lawyer who conducts the case against a defendant in a criminal court

Burden of Proof – the obligation to prove one's assertion

Common law – that body of law derived from judicial decisions of courts and similar tribunals; it arises as precedent

Statutory law – written law established by enactments expressing the will of the legislature, as distinguished from the unwritten law or common law

Federal Supremacy – Article VI of the Constitution providing that the Constitution and all federal laws and treaties shall be the "supreme Law of the Land." Therefore, all federal laws take precedence over state and local laws

Double Jeopardy – protections in the U.S. Constitution keep criminal defendants from facing prosecution more than once for the same offense (with a few exceptions)

Featured National Standards:

1. Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.6

Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.3

Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

2. American School Counselor Association National Standards for Students

American School Counselor Association (2004). ASCA National Standards for Students. A Alexandria, VA: Author.

In the area of Career Development:

Standard A: Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.

Standard B: Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction.