

Law and Criminal Justice Resource Package

Independent Research Activity Ideas and Lesson Plans

Area 1: Activity Ideas

This is a sampling of ideas; additional activity ideas are available with the teacher tools included with individual videos in this resource package.

- ❖ Research landmark Supreme Court decisions and the affect they have had on America.
- ❖ Research the history of law. Ideas: Hammurabi's Code, Greek and Roman law, and the Magna Carta.
- ❖ Research different careers in criminal justice.
- ❖ Research a Supreme Court Justice.
- ❖ Describe the difference between juvenile justice system and the system for adults.

Area 2: Lesson Plans

This is a sampling of lesson plans. You can also check out activity lesson plans available with the teacher tools included with individual videos in this resource package.

Sample Lesson 1: Persuasive Essay

Type of Teacher Tool: Individual/Differentiation

Targeted Grade Level(s): 6-12

Targeted Curriculum Areas: Humanities and Writing

Learning Objectives:

The learner will:

1. study and identify the primary reasons people are incarcerated and observe data showing incarcerations in the U.S.
2. write an argumentative text that too many people are or are not incarcerated and provide data to support the claim they choose to make.

Featured National Standards:

1. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
2. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.1.B Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or

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- text, using credible sources.
3. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
 4. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9 Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

Additional State and National Standards related to the content of our videos listed below for this lesson are also provided on the Educate.Today page where you find the video.

Resources/Materials Needed:

1. Criminal Justice 9: The Ongoing Impact of Gideon v Wainwright
2. Law 1: How Does the Court Decide on Hearing a Case that Goes Against an Earlier Ruling
3. Law 5: Do You Believe that without the Right to Counsel Many Innocent People Would be Unfairly Incarcerated?
4. Law 4: Practical Questions Concerning the Public Defender System
5. Law 13: Poverty is Not a Special Circumstance
6. Internet websites/books for research and data

Teacher Instructions:

1. As a class, discuss the legal system, reasons for incarcerations, and the concept of implicit bias.
2. As part of your class discussion, watch and discuss some or all the Educate.Today videos from above.
3. In addition to what they learn from the videos and your class discussion, students should research U.S. incarcerations and determine their position on the topic as to whether too many people are incarcerated or not.
4. Students should make a claim and argue their claim in an argumentative essay that includes data and facts to support their point of view.

Extension Activity Options:

1. Students could interview a public defender and use the interview information in their essay.

Assessment/Evaluation Options:

1. Check that the students have made a claim that they can support.
2. Check that the students have supporting reasons and data.
3. Students should write clearly and accurately with organized information.