

Civil and Criminal Law

TOPIC SUMMARY

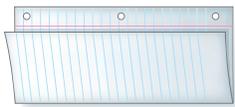
Both civil and criminal cases must follow a legal procedure. Civil cases include disputes over rights, property, or agreements. Plaintiffs usually seek damages from a defendant. Many civil cases are settled through mediation or arbitration. Criminal cases are divided into two main groups—felonies and misdemeanors. A strict procedure follows a person’s arrest. After a trial, a judge or jury issues a verdict. An acquittal finds the defendant not guilty. If a person is found guilty, a judge imposes a sentence. Defendants may appeal the court’s finding if they believe that the trial was improperly conducted. Juvenile cases follow a procedure that differs from the adult system. Juvenile courts are part of a separate justice system that emphasizes rehabilitating the offenders. Juveniles who complete their special training or treatment may have the criminal charges removed from their records.

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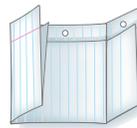
FOLDABLES™ Study Organizer

Comparing Foldable This Foldable will help students compare the details and procedures of the juvenile and adult justice systems.

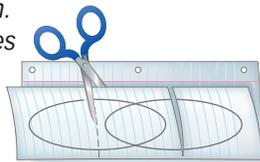
Step 1 Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side.



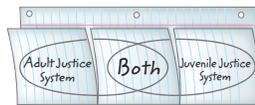
Step 2 Turn the paper and fold into thirds. Unfold the paper.



Step 3 Draw intersecting circles on the front as shown. Cut along the fold lines to make three flaps.



Step 4 Label the circles as shown.



Reading and Writing Make notes under each flap about the processes of the different justice systems. Under the flap labeled “both,” put anything the two justice systems have in common.

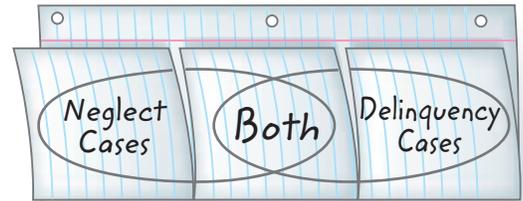
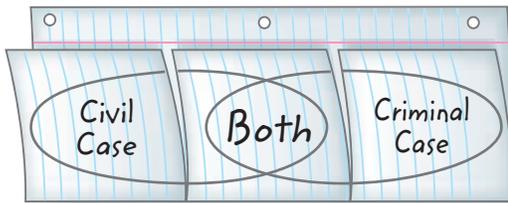
TOPIC ACTIVITY IDEAS

Comparing

Have students create the Study Foldable above, including the Reading and Writing activity. Have students use the text and additional research materials to compare the different resources available to adult and juvenile offenders who want to avoid trouble with the law. Have them add their findings to their Foldables. Ask students to share completed Foldables with the class.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

Have students use the Comparing Foldable to note the similarities and differences between civil and criminal trials. Tell students to review the text and to note in the organizer the types of cases that are criminal and those that are civil. Students may also note any legal procedures that apply to both civil and criminal trials. After students have completed the Foldable, have them draw conclusions about the two types of court cases.



IDENTIFYING CENTRAL ISSUES

Have students use this Foldable to compare juvenile courts' neglect and delinquency cases. Students should list the kinds of offenses involved in each of the cases and how each type of case is guided through the juvenile court system. When students have completed the Foldable, lead a class discussion about the juvenile system and how it works to protect young people and their communities.

Student Study Tip

Discuss with students how comparing and contrasting topics can help them review and identify key points. Point out that this topic includes two important topics that can be compared and contrasted: civil and criminal cases, and adult and juvenile courts. Tell students that a Venn diagram is one way to compare and contrast. Ask students to practice comparing by using other types of graphic organizers, such as charts.