

Vocabulary Activity

Understanding the Law

Content Vocabulary

1. **Directions:** Use this graphic organizer to explain the three types of delinquencies among youths. Use the terms **juvenile delinquent**, **delinquent offender**, and **status offender** in your answers.

Juvenile delinquent	Delinquent offender	Status offender

2. **Directions:** Use this graphic organizer to describe the differences among the different types of law. Use the terms **common law**, **criminal law**, **civil law**, **constitutional law**, **statutory law**, and **case law** in your answers.

Type of Law	Description
common law	
criminal law	
civil law	
constitutional law	
statutory law	
case law	

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

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DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences. If the statement is true, write *T* in the first blank. If the sentence is false, write *F*, and then explain in the space provided why the statement is false. Include the vocabulary word(s) in parentheses in your explanation.

- _____ 3. The prosecution is the plaintiff acting in its role as the party who starts the legal proceedings against someone accused of a crime. (**prosecution**)
- _____ 4. Bail is a set of promises between agreeing parties that is enforceable by law. (**bail**)
- _____ 5. Double jeopardy means to put someone on trial for a crime for which the person was previously found not guilty. (**double jeopardy**)
- _____ 6. Capital punishment is another term for death penalty. (**capital punishment**)
- _____ 7. To place a person on parole means to help him or her reach a healthful and productive way of life. (**parole**)

DIRECTIONS: In the space provided before each word in the left column, write the letter of the correct definition.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| _____ 8. contract | a. a formal notice that a lawsuit has been brought |
| _____ 9. complaint | b. a notice directing someone to appear in court to answer a complaint or charge |
| _____ 10. plea bargain | c. a set of promises between agreeing parties that is enforceable by law |
| _____ 11. damages | d. an act that breaks a law and causes harm to people or damage to property |
| _____ 12. penal code | e. an agreement in which a defendant pleads guilty to a less serious crime to receive a lighter sentence |
| _____ 13. summons | f. the written collection of criminal laws of a state or the nation |
| _____ 14. rehabilitate | g. to help someone reach a healthful and productive way of life |
| _____ 15. crime | h. money ordered by a court to be paid for injuries or losses suffered |
| _____ 16. sentence | i. the punishment given to someone found guilty of committing a crime |

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences. If the **bold** term is used correctly in the sentence, write *C* in the blank. If the term is used incorrectly, write *I*, and then explain in the space provided why the term is not used correctly. Include the boldfaced vocabulary term in your explanation.

- _____ 17. A **lawsuit** is a legal action in which a person or group sues to collect damages for a harm they claim another has done to them.
- _____ 18. A **court-martial** is a court that tries members of the armed forces who are accused of crimes against military law.
- _____ 19. A **tort** is a lawful act for which one party has the right to sue another.

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

Understanding the Law

- _____ 20. A **settlement** is a decision handed down by a judge in a court of law.
- _____ 21. A **search warrant** is a court order allowing law enforcement officers to search a suspect's home or business and take specific items as evidence.
- _____ 22. A **will** is a legal document that provides instructions about how to handle a person's money or property after death.
- _____ 23. A **cross-examination** is the questioning of a witness at a trial or hearing to support the witness's testimony.

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences and respond in the space provided.

24. Explain the different types of juvenile hearings: **detention hearing**, **adjudication hearing**, and **disposition hearing**.
25. Explain the difference between a **plaintiff** and a **defendant**.
26. Explain what a **Miranda Warning** is.
27. Explain the **exclusionary rule**.
28. Explain **presumption of innocence** and why it is important.
29. Explain the difference between a **misdemeanor** and a **felony**.

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

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Academic Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: From the vocabulary list, choose the best word to answer each question.

category, complex, severity, grant, reform

30. Which word means “to allow”?

31. Which term describes an attempt to improve something?

32. Which word refers to something that has many parts?

33. Which word is another word for “seriousness”?

34. Which word describes a group of similar things?