

Law, Jurisdictions, and Enforcement Agencies

Overview

In this activity, students learn about society's legal codes, the differences between common, criminal, civil, constitutional, administrative, and statutory law, and the various law enforcement agencies and their jurisdictions by participating in role plays.

Grade

10

North Carolina Essential Standards for Civics & Economics

- CE.C&G.3.1 - Analyze how the rule of law establishes limits on both the governed and those who govern while holding true to the ideal of equal protection under the law (e.g., the Fourteenth Amendments, Americans with Disabilities Act, equal opportunity legislation.)
- CE.C&G.3.3 - Analyze laws and policies in terms of their intended purposes, who has authority to create them and how they are enforced (e.g., laws, policies, public policy, regulatory, symbolic, procedural, etc.)
- CE.C&G.3.5 - Compare jurisdictions and methods of law enforcement applied at each level of government, the consequences of noncompliance to laws at each level and how each reflects equal protection under the law (e.g., Department of Justice, Regulatory Commissions, FBI, SBI, Homeland Security, Magistrate, State troopers, Sheriff, City police, Ordinance, Statute, Regulation, Fines, Arrest, etc.)
- CE.C&G.3.7 - Summarize the importance of the right to due process of law for individuals accused of crimes (e.g., habeas corpus, presumption of innocence, impartial tribunal, trial by jury, right to counsel, right against self-incrimination, protection against double jeopardy, right of appeal).
- CE.C&G.3.8 - Evaluate the rights of individuals in terms of how well those rights have been upheld by democratic government in the United States.
- CE.C&G.4.4 - Analyze the obligations of citizens by determining when their personal desires, interests and involvement are subordinate to the good of the nation or state (e.g., Patriot Act, Homeland Security, sedition, civil rights, equal rights under the law, jury duty, Selective Services Act, rule of law, eminent domain, etc.)

Essential Questions

- What role do moral codes play in society?
- What are the differences and similarities between moral codes and legal codes?
- Why do we have laws in the United States?
- How do the three branches of government work together to uphold the laws of the United States?
- What is the difference between common, criminal, civil, constitutional, administrative, and statutory law?
- Why do violations of some laws carry higher penalties than others?
- Why are so many agencies needed in order to effectively enforce the laws?
- What methods do the law enforcement agencies use to maintain peace and curtail criminal activity?
- How does jurisdiction play a major role in deciding which law enforcement agency is responsible for enforcing the law?

Materials

- Types of Law, handout attached
- Types of Law Key, handout attached
- Law-Breaking Role Plays and Key, handout attached
- Jurisdiction Summary, attached
- Role Play Reflection Sheet, handout attached

- NC General Court of Justice Chart, handout attached
- <http://www.nccourts.org/>, The North Carolina Court System

Duration

One block period

Procedure

Why Do We Have Laws?

1. As a warm up, write the words *Moral Code* and *Legal Code* where all students can see them and ask the class to compare and contrast these two codes. Facilitate ideas by asking:
 - What comes to mind when you hear the word **moral**? What is **moral code**? What examples of moral code can you think of? (if students do not bring it up, ask them to consider the Ten Commandments)
 - What is **legal code**? What comes to mind when you hear legal code? What examples can you think of that represent legal code? What documents organize our legal code? (laws, ordinances, statutes, NC Constitution, US Constitution, etc.)
 - How do moral code and legal code relate to one another? Is one more important than the other? Explain.
 - Which of these codes governs our court system and the punishments administered? Explain.
2. Explain to students that legal code is the system of legality that sets laws, evaluates laws and whether they have been broken, and determines punishments. Next, ask students why they think we have laws. Answers may include: the need to bring and keep order to society; to protect people's safety, property, and individual rights/freedoms; the need to promote the common good (i.e. protecting the environment); etc.

Separation of Powers

3. Next, ask students, "How does **separation of powers** relate to the law?" Review the three branches:
 - **Executive Branch:** recommends laws to the legislative branch; ensures laws are "faithfully executed"; has the power to veto a bill and grant clemency
 - **Legislative Branch:** writes the law
 - **Judicial Branch:** interprets the law; has power of judicial review (power to annul an executive of legislative act on constitutional grounds); determines laws broken and punishments

Types of Law

4. Place students into groups of 3-5 and review your expectations for group work behavior. Then, explain to students that there are many types and classifications of laws that govern our society's behavior, many of which overlap. Distribute the *Types of Law* handout. You may choose to have students research using their text book and the Internet and fill out the sheet in their groups, or you may choose to go over the terms and examples as a class.

➤ **Teacher Note:** As you go over the sheet, clarify that administrative law cases may end up in court; that administrative, civil, and criminal cases are examples of statutory law; and that even criminal law overlaps constitutional law because it relies upon the procedures outlined in the US Constitution and the NC Constitution. Be sure to mention that laws can often overlap. For example, if a drunk driver hits and injures someone, criminal law protects society by punishing the driver for being drunk while driving. However, it is civil law that ensures the injured person is compensated for their medical bills.

Law Enforcement Agencies & Jurisdiction

5. Once students have filled out their handouts, ask them to consider the various types of **law enforcement agencies**. (Again, point to the drunk driving example.) Ask students:
- Which law enforcement agency would be responsible for making an arrest, and if necessary, investigating the crime if the accident took place at a major intersection in their city/county? (Students will probably correctly identify the **local police department** or **county sheriff's office**.)
 - Which law enforcement agency might be involved if the accident occurred on the interstate between their city and the next city over? (Students will probably correctly identify the **NC State Highway patrol**, local police department, or county sheriff's office.)
 - What if it was further discovered that the drunk driver's vehicle was actually a stolen fleet vehicle owned by the state? (Students are less likely to know that the **State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)** has **original jurisdiction** in matters regarding the theft and misuse of state property.)
 - Which agency would be involved in the investigation if the state vehicle had been stolen by a criminal who robbed a bank in Georgia the week before and fled to North Carolina. (In this case, the **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** would be involved, since the agency has jurisdiction in matters where criminals cross state lines.)
 - Finally, which agency would be involved if it was discovered that the trunk of the vehicle was filled with counterfeit \$20 bills? (Few students will probably know that the **US Secret Service** has jurisdiction over the prevention and investigation of counterfeiting of U.S. currency and U.S. treasury bonds notes.)
6. Explain that in each of the preceding cases, a certain law enforcement agency (or agencies) will have **jurisdiction** based on the location and/or subject matter of the crime. Jurisdiction is defined as "the authority given to a legal body, such as a law enforcement agency or court, to adjudicate and enforce legal matters." Stress that jurisdiction is not always clear and often overlaps, just like with civil and criminal law. Ask students to think of movies or TV shows they may have seen where local law enforcement officers are either pleased or angry that the FBI is "taking over the case." Pass out the *Jurisdiction Summary* handout, attached, and discuss some of the major differences between law enforcement agencies. In order to gauge understanding and highlight some of the major points, ask students some of the following questions:
- What are the major differences between police departments and sheriff's offices? (Police departments typically have jurisdiction within city limits, while sheriff's offices work in the county; sheriff's are elected; sheriff's department handles the county jail and court security (since courts are a county function); etc.
 - Where are you most likely to see a state trooper making an arrest? (On a highway, interstate, or other public road)
 - Who has ultimate authority over the state highway patrol? (The Governor)
 - How might the SBI get involved in a police department or sheriff's office investigation? (The SBI can assist any local government investigation per that local government's request.
 - Aside from protecting the president, what other responsibilities does the US Secret Service have? (Prevention and investigation of counterfeiting of U.S. currency and U.S. treasury bonds notes and financial fraud crimes and identity theft)
 - Which 3 law enforcement agencies require a 4-year college degree? (SBI, US Secret Service, FBI)

Role Plays: Law and Jurisdiction

7. Next, tell students that they are going to be focusing on (1) the difference in criminal law and civil law and (2) issues of jurisdiction by participating in and evaluating one another's group role plays. Explain to students that they will receive a scenario in which a crime has been committed. They must figure out how to stage the scenario into a scene that they act out and communicate all of the details of the scenario.

They will end their scene by asking the class the question provided at the end of the scenario given to them. The audience will then determine the answer to the question, generally regarding (1) whether a criminal or civil case will ensue and (2) which law enforcement agency they believe has jurisdiction in the case. Remind students that a great deal of overlap of law and jurisdiction often exists, as will be illustrated in the scenes they act out and evaluate.

Distribute the law-breaking role plays (attached) and give students around 10 minutes to stage and practice their scenes. Tell students they may use any thing within the room as a prop, and they may also use narration at the beginning of their scene to set the stage if needed. Props are encouraged since they may help clarify where the crime occurred and which law enforcement agency is most likely to be involved.

8. Before the performances, handout the attached Role Play Reflection Chart, or instruct students to make a chart on notebook paper in which they describe what happened in each role play as it is performed, and note the type of law and case each scene deals with:

What happened in the role play?	What laws were broken? What type of case will ensue? Which law enforcement agency (or agencies) have jurisdiction in the case and why?
1. In this role play Joe keyed Katherine's car because she dumped him	Civil misdemeanor (recovering damages less than \$10,000) Criminal misdemeanor (injury to property) Sheriff's Office (school located in county)
2.	

Optional Homework

9. For homework, instruct students to use their notes from today, the NC Court System website (<http://www.nccourts.org/>), and a NC General Court of Justice chart (attached) to map out where each of today's cases will be heard and/or sent upon entering the NC Court System (assuming all crimes are committed by individuals over the age of sixteen.)
 - Ask students to map out these details on a separate sheet of paper using arrows. For example:
 - First-degree murder charges (Felonious criminal case) → Superior Court
 - Civil case involving less than \$10,000 → Civil District Court
 - Ask students to determine each act as a misdemeanor or a felony and to complete judicial maps for all 15 role plays.
10. Discuss maps the following day before moving forward with the next lesson.

Name: _____

Types of Law

Directions: Below you will find seven categories of law in the United States. For each category, write down a definition you understand and can explain to others. Then find two examples of acts categorized under each type of law.

Category of Law	Definition	Example One	Example Two
Administrative law	Government and/or organization-related issues that can be handled outside of a courtroom.		Your case might first be considered administrative if you file a claim to receive workers' compensation. Eventually, the case could go to court if one or both parties are unable to resolve.
Civil law			
Common law			
Constitutional law		Leandro v. the State of North Carolina is a case that falls under constitutional law because the case was filed and the court ruled on the basis of the NC Constitution.	
Criminal law			
Statutory law	The law written by a legislative body or another governing body. Please note that criminal, civil, and administrative laws are all types of statutory laws.		

Types of Law-KEY

Category of Law	Definition	Example One	Example Two
Administrative Law	Laws about government-related or organizational-related issues. (These cases may eventually go to court, but first there is an administrative process.)	Cases about unemployment and distribution of food stamps fall here.	Your case might first be considered administrative if you file a claim to receive workers' compensation. Eventually, the case could go to court if one or both parties are unable to resolve.
Civil Law	Cases filed by individual parties or corporations; punitive damages are frequently rewarded.	A civil court will determine whether or not a child is being abused or neglected, but this court will not punish the guardian for this abuse or neglect. The court may remove the child from this guardian's custody, however.	Alimony, child custody, and divorce battles are found in civil courts.
Common Law	A system of law based on precedents and customs.	No existing statute indicates when an individual <i>becomes</i> the custody of police; therefore, courts determine the answer to this question based on precedent.	In the case of privacy law, the question of what is <i>reasonable</i> search and seizure is determined by the individual court.
Constitutional Law	Refers to the U.S. Constitution, the NC Constitution, and their amendments. (Constitutional Law cases are rare.)	Leandro v. the State of North Carolina is a case that falls under constitutional law because the case was filed and the court ruled on the basis of the NC Constitution.	Any case where the state becomes the defendant in a question regarding a constitution and its amendments.
Criminal Law	Refers not only to the breaking of the law, but also to causing harm to people and/or society as a whole	The Elizabeth Smart case falls under criminal law because her abductors are considered a danger to society.	Theft, substance abuse, sex offenses, murder...any case brought against a defendant by the state is a criminal case.
Statutory Law	The law written by a legislative body or another governing body. Please note that criminal, civil, and administrative laws are all types of statutory laws.	A case about littering falls back on statutory law and probably a local ordinance.	If a municipality does not follow proper procedure to annex a new territory, the case falls under a NC statute.

**Jurisdiction Summary:
Law Enforcement Agencies and Their Jurisdictions***

	Mission	Jurisdiction Over	Authority derived from	To become an officer/deputy/agent
Police Department (municipal)	<p>Typical police department mission statements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building problem solving partnerships with citizens and neighbors and preventing crime to enhance the quality of life throughout a city • providing the highest quality of professional services • protecting life and property, enforcing and uphold the law, and preserving order 	<p>-A local police department generally only has jurisdiction within city limits, but several exceptions apply that might give the officer jurisdiction in a specific case. One such exception is if the officer is in “hot pursuit” of a criminal who crosses the city line.</p> <p>-Often, cities and counties have agreements to assist each other in law enforcement by way of an “interlocal agreement.” In such cases, the jurisdiction of police officers and deputy sheriffs and sheriff officers may overlap.</p>	<p>-State statutes</p> <p>-Municipal Codes</p> <p>-Interlocal agreements</p>	<p>-To become a police officer in most states, a person must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possess a valid driver’s license or be eligible for one • have a high school diploma • successfully complete a physical abilities test • pass medical, psychological examinations and drug testing • be able to work on a rotating schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays. <p>-Completion of a police academy is often required.</p>
Sheriff’s Office (county)	<p>Typical sheriff’s office mission statements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting the lives and property of all citizens within the county • providing a safe and secure environment for citizens to live and work • enforcing the law and investigating crimes • maintaining the county jail* • serving civil and criminal processes and providing security for court systems* <p>*specific to sheriff’s office</p>	<p>-A sheriff’s office generally has jurisdiction within county limits, but outside of city limits. Several exceptions apply that might give a deputy jurisdiction in a specific case.</p> <p>-Often, counties and cities have agreements to assist each other in law enforcement by way of an “interlocal agreement.” In such cases, the jurisdiction of deputy sheriffs and sheriff officers and police officers may overlap.</p>	<p>-State statutes</p> <p>-County ordinances</p> <p>-Interlocal agreements</p>	<p>-Sheriffs are elected into office by citizens living within a county</p> <p>-Deputy Sheriffs and sheriff officers must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possess a valid driver’s license or be eligible for one • have a high school diploma • successfully complete a physical abilities test, pass medical, psychological examinations and drug testing • be able to work on a rotating schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays. <p>-Associates degrees and/or completion of a sheriff academy are required in most states.</p>
State Highway Patrol/ State Trooper	<p>Typical highway patrol/state trooper mission statements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing collisions and making the highways as safe as possible • making DWI and DUI arrests • guiding traffic during hurricane evacuations or re-routing traffic around hazardous chemical spills • carrying out other directives issued by the governor 	<p>-State highway patrol generally has jurisdiction over all state routes, US highways, interstate highways, freeways, and all public roads that are not within city limits</p>	<p>-Federal law</p> <p>-State statutes</p>	<p>-Typically, state troopers must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be at least 21 • have an associate’s degree from an accredited college (or 60 college credits) • successfully complete a physical abilities test, pass medical, psychological examinations and drug testing • pass a written examination and polygraph • have no felony convictions

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pass a rigorous training academy
State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)	-To secure effective administration of the criminal laws of the state, to prevent crime, and to procure the speedy apprehension of criminals. To have charge of and administer the agencies and activities for the identification of criminals, for their apprehension, for the scientific analysis of evidence of crime, and investigation and preparation of evidence to be used in criminal courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug Investigations Arson/Fire Investigations Election Law Violations Gambling Investigations Thefts/Damage to State Property Environmental Crimes Computer crime investigations that involve crimes against children <i>Any other investigations—including homicides, missing persons cases, robberies, and property crime—where a local government requests SBI assistance</i> 	<p>-Federal law</p> <p>-State statute (which in this case actually defines the agency's mission)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> be at least 21 have a 4-year college degree successfully complete a physical abilities test, pass medical, psychological examinations and drug testing pass a written examination and polygraph have no felony convictions pass a rigorous training academy
US Secret Service	-To safeguard the nation's financial infrastructure and payment systems to preserve the integrity of the economy, and to protect national leaders, visiting heads of state and government, designated sites and National Special Security Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention and investigation of counterfeiting of U.S. currency and U.S. treasury bonds notes Protecting the President, Vice President, President-elect, Vice President-elect, past presidents and their spouses (except when the spouse re-marries), children and grandchildren of current and former presidents until age 16, all people in the United States presidential line of succession, visiting foreign heads of state and government Financial fraud crimes and identity theft 	-Federal law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> be at least 21 have a 4-year college degree successfully complete a physical abilities test, pass medical, psychological examinations and drug testing pass a written examination and polygraph have no felony convictions pass a rigorous training academy bonuses given to those speaking foreign language(s)
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	-To protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States, and to provide leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners.	-The FBI has original jurisdiction in many federal matters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> espionage (spying) sabotage kidnapping extortion bank robbery interstate transportation of stolen property civil-rights matters interstate gambling violations fraud against the government 	-Federal law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> be at least 21 have a 4-year college degree successfully complete a physical abilities test, pass medical, psychological examinations and drug testing pass a strict background check pass a written examination and polygraph have no felony convictions pass a rigorous training academy bonuses given to those speaking foreign language(s)

Law-Breaking Role Plays

Role-Play #1

Joe and Katherine are eleventh graders at Campus County High School and they have been dating very seriously since the ninth grade. In the past, Katherine has tried to break up with Joe, but whenever she mentions it, Joe gets very upset and threatens to hurt himself or other people. Now that they are eleventh graders, Katherine really thinks she needs to test the waters and see what other guys are available at Campus County HS. She gets up the nerve to break up with Joe after US History, and she thinks it's gone pretty well because Joe just walks away. A few days go by, and Katherine is happy with the break up. Then one day she walks out into the parking lot and finds her new Grand Jeep Cherokee keyed from front to back. Katherine is horrified, knows Joe did it, and is determined to press charges.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“What type of case will Katherine file?” “Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction?”**



Role-Play #2

Ellen's dad is a famous defense attorney, and Ellen's mom is a pediatrician. She has a nanny at home, but she hardly ever gets to see her hard-working parents and really craves their attention. She just entered high school, and her parents didn't even notice, so Ellen decided that if she wanted attention, she was going to have to demand it. So, one day after school, Ellen asked her nanny to drop her off at the city mall to meet friends. Ellen went straight to J. Crew and picked out the most expensive article of clothing she could find and still get in her purse. When the closest sales clerk turned away, Ellen stuffed the shirt in her purse and went for the door. Naturally, the buzzers started going off, and Ellen was apprehended by a sales clerk.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“What type of case will J. Crew file?” “Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction?”**



Role-Play #3

Joe, Ben and Joy are all friends who attend Knapp City High School. Joe dated Joy in tenth grade, and Ben dates Joy now, in eleventh grade.. All three have the same last period class, and on a nice summer day their teacher has let the class go out on the field to sign yearbooks while he grades papers. Joe, Ben, and Joy are all there along with the rest of their classmates, and when no one's really paying attention, Joe and Ben start to figure out that Joy has been seeing both of them for two years. In their conversation, it comes out that Joy cheated on Ben when she went to a movie with Joe just last month, perhaps looking to “rekindle their old flame.” Joe and Ben start to argue and eventually start throwing punches. A crowd starts to gather and once others realize what's going on, one of Ben's friends jumps in to help him, escalating the conflict to a “two-on-one fight.” By the time the school resource officer and the administrators arrive, all three boys are bleeding.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“What charges will be pressed against these boys?” “Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction?”**



Role-Play #4

Daniel and David are seventeen and always go to parties together on the weekends. This weekend, they are going to a party at Kelley's, whose parents are out of town. Daniel and David know that Kelley's older brother is known around town for dealing drugs from the house, but they don't mess with drugs. At the party, they were minding their own business, smoking cigarettes and drinking a few beers on the back porch when they heard some yelling. When they tried to enter the house to see what was going on, they found that everyone else was running out, and behind all of their friends, they could see two law enforcement officers. Before Daniel and David could join the pack, they were grabbed by the two officers and held on the porch to answer questions and to take breathalyzers. As it turned out, the purpose of the raid was not to break up the party, but to bust Kelley's brother who had been the subject of an ongoing drug investigation.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“What charges can be pressed against Daniel and David?”**
“Which law enforcement agencies are likely to be involved in the case?”



Role-Play #5

Amy just moved to a different apartment and changed the address on her license. Amy assumed this meant that the DMV changed her address on all of her files, and when Amy didn't get her updated car registration, she didn't even notice because she thought she'd taken care of the details and really didn't remember it, anyway. Then one day, Amy was driving on the interstate on her way to visit a friend at 55 miles an hour and got pulled over. The officer explained that her registration was expired and wrote her a ticket, even though Amy explained she had these details taken care of and it must be the DMV's fault. (Note: Explain to your classmates that you have to change both addresses individually and that the DMV does not automatically take care of such details.)

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“Are we dealing with civil or criminal law?”** **“Which law enforcement agency is likely to be involved in this case?”**



Role-Play #6

James, Jackson and Donald ran around together, but Donald was the one who really lived for the thrill. One day in the parking lot at the county fair, James, Jackson, and Donald were trying to hit on some girls, and when the girls wouldn't pay them any attention, Donald pulled a gun out of his pocket. He pointed the gun at one of the girls, but didn't intend to hurt anyone. He only wanted the girls to think he was cool. However, when James saw some cops walking towards them, he yelled at Jackson to put it away. Jackson, startled by James's warning, dropped the gun and it went off, shooting one of the girls. Donald quickly recovered, picked up the gun and handed the gun to Jackson, who hid it in his backpack.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“What charges will be brought against Donald? What charges will be brought against Jackson and James?”** **“Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction?”**



Role-Play #7

Sandra Jimenez has been in the county public school system for 2 years, and ever since her parents moved into the district, they have been trying to enroll her in a magnet school. Sandra has good grades, participates in extra-curricular activities, and has never been a problem in school; however, she is continually denied entrance into a magnet school. After learning that the school system had a history of denying minorities, her father brings charges against the district, saying that Sandra is not getting into a magnet school because she comes from a poor Hispanic family.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“On what grounds might Mr. Jimenez make these charges?”**
“Which law enforcement agency, if any, will be involved in the investigation?”



Role-Play #8

One night after a football game, Melanie, Coco, and Meredith were doing figure eights in the vacant downtown parking lot while playing their music really loud. They were not smoking or drinking, just having some innocent fun, cruising. Suddenly, they heard sirens, and a police car pulled up beside them. In disbelief, Melanie, Coco, and Meredith were all written citations for making too much noise after 11:00 and for trespassing.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“What type of law supports these charges?”** **“Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction?”**



Role-Play #9

To become a member of the Parks Gang, all potential members have to steal something of significant value. Jamie and Michael were both potential members of the Parks Gang, and on the night of October 11th, they were told to make their move. Jamie and Michael set out down Orange Street together, and at Chartreuse Street, they went separate ways. Jamie was feeling a little nervous, so he sought a house with a front porch, went on the porch, and stole a hammock. Michael, on the other hand, was thrilled and exhilarated by this task, and he was looking to steal the biggest and best item ever. Luckily for Michael, a neighbor pulled up in front of a house and left his car running to leave something on the doorstep. With very little time, Michael jumped in the car and drove away. What he didn't know was that a small child was in the back seat of the car. When he realized this, he became even more excited. Although he had no intention of harming the child, he thought he might be able to impress the Parks Gang OGs if he could figure out a way to make a ransom.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“Obviously, both stole something and both will be charged with a criminal act, but what’s the difference between the two?” “Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction?”**



Role-Play #10

In Chapel Hill, many girls fill sorority houses, and at the Chi Omega house, all the bedrooms are on the second floor. Dana, Sydney, and Alison were members of Chi Omega and shared a room together in the house, and for a few weeks, they kept thinking they were hearing noises on the roof. Naturally, they were a little freaked out, but they wrote it off as squirrels or tree limbs or something along those lines. Then one night, the noise on the roof was really loud, and Alison finally got up the nerve to open the window, but when she got closer to the window, she realized a man’s face was peering in, and she screamed. The girls then realized that the noise on the roof was a man moving around and watching all the girls in the sorority house.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“If apprehended, what charges can be brought against this peeping-Thom?” “Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction?”**



Role-Play #11

The whole gang had gone over to Brian’s, who lives in an apartment in the town, for a late-night party while his dad was out. Nate, Courtney, John, Max, Catherine – they were all there. Usually when this crowd gets together, things are a little on the rowdy side, and tonight, things were rowdier than usual. Not only did Courtney bring marijuana, but also, Nate brought cocaine. Nobody bothered to ask how Nate got his hands on the cocaine; instead, they were just intrigued by this new drug. After smoking a little marijuana, the group went for the big stuff. Shortly after using the cocaine, Courtney began having convulsions and collapsed to the ground. The kids called 911, but by the time EMS got there, Courtney was not breathing. They pronounced her brain dead, and she died in the middle of the night.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, **“What charges can the state bring against Nate? What about the others present?” “Which law enforcement agency (or agencies) might be involved?”**



Role-Play #12

It was the last night of senior year, and many members of the senior class were meeting at the school to pull the senior prank. The plan was to toilet paper the school grounds, to fork the football field, and to put manure in the parking spaces of all the administrators. It seemed like pretty harmless stuff. One group, however, was not “in on the plan,” but when they got on the school buses parked in the lot, everyone else was too busy doing their jobs. Suddenly, everyone heard sirens and started to scatter, but the deputies had blocked the parking lots and no one could get their cars out. By the time the police officers finished inspecting the school grounds, not only did they find the TP, the forks, and the manure, but also they found that four county-owned school buses had their tires and their seats slashed.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, “**What will happen to these students?**” “**Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction?**”



Role-Play #13

Before the days of Caller ID, people used to make prank calls all the time. Well, Bo had sort of gotten into this habit again, and he accomplished his prank by blocking his name and number from the calls he made. Bo and his buddy, Davis, found this to be a pretty good joke for awhile, and they would do some of your typical “Is your refrigerator running” prank calls. Then, Bo started raising the bar on his prank calls, and Davis stopped thinking they were so funny. He started calling the homes of girls he had dated or didn’t like and talking to them and their parents about the promiscuous activities they engaged in at school. Naturally, the parents were furious about such crass prank calls. While Bo was laughing, some of the parents were trying to track him down, and finally, one father succeeded.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, “**What type of charges will be brought against Bo?**”



Role-Play #14

Karen Lloyd kept coming to school with bruises on her arms, her neck, her legs, basically anywhere you could see, and her teacher, Mrs. White, was determined that Karen was being abused or neglected at home. She continually spoke to the social services liaison at school, and finally, social services went to check it out. When they went to the house, they did not find Mrs. Lloyd hurting Karen, but they did see the bruises all over Karen’s body. They took Mrs. Lloyd to court.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, “**What court will hear Mrs. Lloyd’s case?**”



Role Play #15

Dante, who is 18 and about to graduate, works as the school’s secretary assistant for one period each day. One day, while filing some documents, he came across a list of teacher’s social security numbers. He wrote down a few numbers of the teachers he didn’t really like. When he got home that afternoon, he went online, and using four teachers’ names and social security numbers, he applied for credit cards. When the cards arrived two weeks later he went on a spending spree, taking his friends out to extravagant dinners, purchasing expensive jewelry online, even booking a trip to the Caribbean. In no time at all, he’d racked up nearly \$30,000 in purchases. However, as he soon found out, it was not difficult for the authorities to track where the credit cards had been applied for and used.

Once your group completes the action, ask your classmates, “**What type of charges will be brought against Dante?**” “**Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction?**”

Role-Play Key

1. This scenario has two components. A civil element relating to recovering damages is present; as long as the damages are less than \$10,000, it is a civil misdemeanor. The second component is the criminal charge of vandalism, properly referred to as "Injury to Property" in the NC General Statutes. In this case, civil and criminal misdemeanor cases exist. Because the school is located in the county, the sheriff's office has jurisdiction.
2. J. Crew will file criminal misdemeanor charges against Ellen for stealing its property. Because the mall is located within city limits, the local police department has jurisdiction.
3. The school has to suspend the boys because the fight was two-on-one and because blood was drawn; however, the school does not stand in a position to bring charges against the boys. The boys could be charged with the criminal misdemeanor offense of affray, a noisy quarrel or brawl, for fighting on school property. Because the fight occurred at a school located in the city, the police department has jurisdiction.
4. According to statutes, the legal smoking age is eighteen and the legal drinking age is twenty-one, so according to basic statutory law, the boys are committing crimes and will suffer criminal misdemeanor charges. As for Kelley's brother, depending on the amount of drugs found, he will suffer either criminal misdemeanor or felony charges. Because the case involved a raid on a party within the city and a drug investigation, the local police department and the State Bureau of Investigation will likely be involved.
5. A ticket for an expired registration is a criminal infraction. Because Amy was pulled over on the interstate, the State Highway Patrol will likely be involved.
6. Donald will likely be charged with involuntary manslaughter, which is an accidental homicide and a felony criminal charge identified in General Statute 14-18. Jackson will be charged as an accessory to involuntary manslaughter, and James will likely go uncharged. Because the crime occurred in the county, the sheriff's office will have jurisdiction.
7. Mr. Jimenez will file a civil suit under the US Constitution, citing a violation of equal protection under the 14th Amendment. In this civil suit, he will likely ask for his daughter to be admitted to the school and/or seek damages. Depending on the severity of the civic rights allegations, it is possible that the FBI may be involved in the investigation.
8. Trespassing is against NC General Statutes, and noise ordinances are set by local governments. The charges will be criminal misdemeanors. Because they were downtown, the police department has jurisdiction.
9. In Jamie's case, he will be charged with trespassing and theft under \$1,000, both criminal misdemeanors, and in Michael's case, the charge is grand theft auto, or felony larceny of a motor vehicle, which is a felony criminal charge. Because kidnapping is involved, the FBI has jurisdiction.
11. The peeping-Thom case falls under NCGS 14-202 and is a criminal misdemeanor case. Because UNC is located within the Town of Chapel Hill, the local police department has jurisdiction.
12. Actually, the state could file second-degree murder charges or involuntary manslaughter charges, both felony criminal charges, against Nate in addition to criminal misdemeanor charges for possession. The local police department would be involved, and maybe even the SBI.
13. These students will all be charged with criminal misdemeanor charges for trespassing and vandalism, which is a NC General Statute titled "Injury to Property." The sheriff's office likely has jurisdiction, as indicated by the fact that the school buses are county-owned.
14. Actually, this father could bring harassment charges against Bo, which is a criminal misdemeanor charge.
15. This case will be heard in civil court as social services is just trying to determine whether or not Karen is abused; they are not trying to punish her mother and are dealing with Karen's safety. Ultimately, of course, her mother will be punished if Karen is removed from her home, and if the court determines necessary, the case could eventually become a criminal case and charges could be brought against Mrs. Lloyd.
16. Because identity theft is an aggravated crime and a felony under federal law, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028, Dante will face criminal felony charges. He will face a minimum sentence of 2 years in prison. The US Secret Service actually has jurisdiction over this case.

Teacher note: It is important to end this exercise by noting that no category of law is discrete; for example, while criminal law may be thought of as a category all its own, it does rely upon the federal criminal process as outlined by the US Constitution. Some questions may arise regarding these crimes and the charges, and please inform students that when the case falls into the hands of the district attorney, that individual will most likely seek the highest charge because once filed, you can never increase the preponderance of a charge; however, a charge can be reduced.

Name: _____

Role Play Reflection Chart

What happened in the role play?	What laws were broken? What type of case will ensue? Which law enforcement agency (or agencies) have jurisdiction in the case and why?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	

Homework Key

1-5. Criminal Misdemeanor to Criminal District Court

6. Criminal Felony to Superior Court, but preliminary details addressed in District Court.

7. Civil Suit to Civil District Court

8. Criminal Misdemeanor to Criminal District Court

9. Jamie's Case to Criminal District Court; Michael's Case to Superior Court, but preliminary details addressed in District Court.

10. Criminal Misdemeanor to Criminal District Court

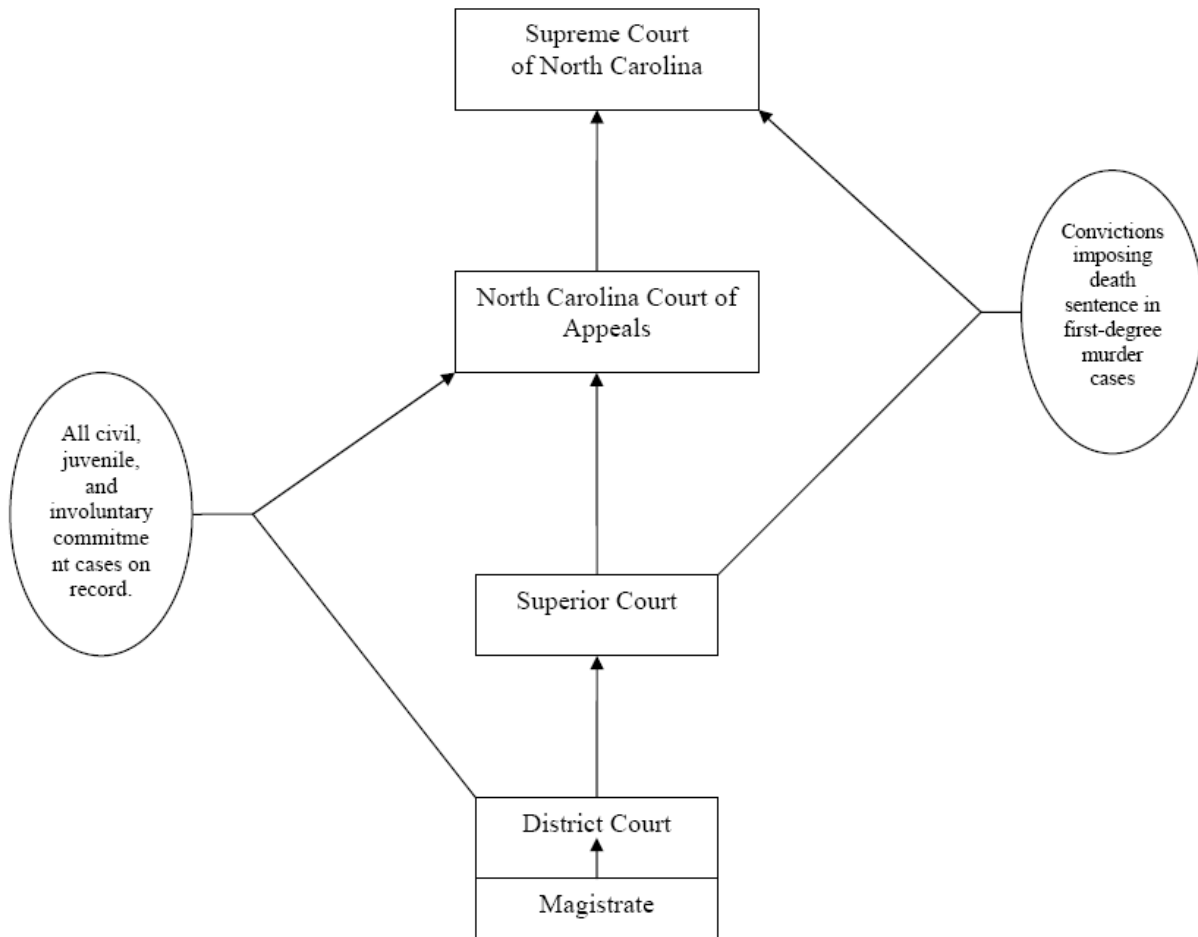
11. Criminal Felony to Superior Court, but preliminary details addressed in District Court.

12-13. Criminal Misdemeanor to Criminal District Court

14. Civil Suit to Family Court, a special kind of Civil District Court

Purpose: Most cases are heard at the District Court level; even those moving to Superior Courts are initiated at the District Court level. Important to note are the differences between District Court and Superior Court, which can be found in NC State and Local Government at a Glance, Objective 3.03, page 11.

North Carolina General Court of Justice



Sources:

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