

Criminal Trials: Actors and Steps

Teacher's
Guide



Description and Objectives	<p>This activity explains the stages of the criminal legal process and the roles of the various people involved. It begins with a historical overview of the Canadian legal system.</p> <p>It can be interesting to do the “Careers in Justice” activity beforehand.</p>
Suggested Time	60 minutes
Suggested Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● English Language Arts (The trial process and the rights of the accused can be used as subjects for an essay or a debate.)● Ethics and Religious Culture● History
Materials Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● PowerPoint presentation● laptop, projector, extension cord● optional: Éducaloi pamphlets* <p>* Order off the website: www.educaloi.qc.ca/en/contact-us</p>

Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read the Teacher's Guide. ● It can be helpful to look at the Crimes, Tickets and Fines section of Éducaloi's website.
In-Class Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Present Éducaloi and its website (five minutes). 2. Present the PowerPoint (50 minutes). 3. Additional activity (10-15 minutes).
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arrange a visit to a courthouse so students can observe a trial. (The majority of trials are open to the public.) Contact the courthouse closest to the school. ● Éducaloi's website has a lot of information about criminal law. See the section Crimes, Tickets and Fines.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This guide has legal information up to date as of June 1, 2017. None of the information in this guide should be taken as legal advice.

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Additional Activity

Scenario and
Questions

Instructions

This activity allows students to apply the criminal law notions they learned to a concrete case.

Students read the scenario below and then answer the five questions that follow to test what they learned during the PowerPoint presentation.

TIP:

This activity can be done orally in a group, or be printed and completed by the students individually in writing.

Scenario

Anthony lives in front of a large park. Everyday, he goes jogging in the park. Anthony noticed that a bike has been locked to a park bench for the past two months. He takes a closer look at the bike. It's almost new and is the bike of his dreams.

A few weeks later, Anthony sees that the bike is still locked to the bench. He tells himself that the owner must not want it anymore.

Later that night, he decides to break the lock and takes off with the bike. After all, he tells himself, the owner isn't using it anymore. Mr. Roberts, another jogger, was in the park that night and saw everything. He immediately called the police and gave them an accurate description of Anthony.

An hour later, the bike was in Anthony's back yard, and the story of the bike had spread throughout the neighbourhood. It turned out that the bike belonged to Louis, a neighbour who had been bedridden for two months, suffering from mononucleosis.

The police arrested Anthony and accused him of theft. Anthony told the whole story to his lawyer. Tomorrow is his trial.

Questions (5 points)

1. Who is taking the court case against Anthony?

A: In a criminal case, it's the state (the prosecutor) who takes Anthony to court and not the victim (Louis).

2. In a criminal case, the burden of proof is not the same as in a civil case. The judge must be convinced _____ that Anthony committed the crime before finding him guilty.

A: beyond a reasonable doubt

3. Does Anthony have to testify at his trial?

A: No. He has the right to remain silent. This means he does not have to speak at his trial.

4. Mr. Roberts told several neighbours what he saw. Can all of them testify against Anthony by telling the court what Mr. Roberts told them?

A: No. Only Mr. Roberts can testify at Anthony's trial because he's the only one who personally saw Anthony take the bike. The neighbours' testimonies would be "hearsay" and therefore not allowed as evidence against Anthony.

5. Anthony would like to testify at his trial and tell the judge he was not in town on the night the bike was stolen. He wants to invent an alibi to avoid being found guilty. If you were his lawyer, would you encourage him to do this? Give reasons for your answer.

A: No. Lawyers cannot encourage their clients to lie in court.