



# Law Enforcement Officer



**Hands-on-Academics**  
**Law Enforcement Officer**  
by Career Solutions Publishing

Copyright 2010 Career Solutions Publishing  
ISBN: 978-1-935958-20-5

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this work covered by copyright hereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical including photocopying, recording, taping, Web distribution or information storage and retrieval systems—without the written permission of the publisher.

For permission to use material from this text or product, contact us at  
Telephone: 888 299-2784  
FAX: 610 993-8249  
E-mail: [csp@careersolutionspublishing.com](mailto:csp@careersolutionspublishing.com)

For more information, contact Career Solutions Publishing, 1199 Lancaster Avenue, Berwyn, PA 19312 or visit our Website at:

[www.careersolutionspublishing.com](http://www.careersolutionspublishing.com)



# Table of Contents

<a href="#">Career Information</a> .....	1-2
<a href="#">Career Vocabulary</a> .....	3-4
<a href="#">Math</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Activity 1</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Activity 2</a> .....	7
<a href="#">Activity 3</a> .....	8
<a href="#">Science</a> .....	9
<a href="#">Activity 1</a> .....	10
<a href="#">Activity 2</a> .....	10
<a href="#">Activity 3</a> .....	11-12
<a href="#">Activity 4</a> .....	13
<a href="#">Activity 5</a> .....	14
<a href="#">Critical Thinking - Science</a> .....	15
<a href="#">Activity</a> .....	15
<a href="#">Just for Fun - Science</a> .....	16
<a href="#">Activity</a> .....	16-17
<a href="#">Related Websites - Science</a> .....	17
<a href="#">Social Studies</a> .....	18-19
<a href="#">Activity 1</a> .....	18
<a href="#">Activity 2</a> .....	20
<a href="#">Activity 3</a> .....	20
<a href="#">In the News – Social Studies</a> .....	21
<a href="#">Activity</a> .....	21
<a href="#">Related Websites – Social Studies</a> .....	22
<a href="#">English/Communications</a> .....	23
<a href="#">Activity</a> .....	23-25
<a href="#">Critical Thinking - English</a> .....	26
<a href="#">Activity</a> .....	26
<a href="#">Workplace Politics and Personalities</a> .....	28
<a href="#">Activity</a> .....	28
<a href="#">Related Websites – General</a> .....	29
<a href="#">Challenge Activity - Social Studies</a> .....	30
<a href="#">Activity</a> .....	31-34



## To Serve and Protect

*"The community depends on me to protect its citizens and provide aid in emergencies. When you dial 911, are involved in an accident, or are the victim of a crime, I will respond and assist you."*

## Career Information

### ***What I do every day***

I am responsible for enforcing the laws of our country, states, and local districts to protect your life and property. I collect evidence at an accident or crime scene, interview witnesses and suspects, and identify and arrest criminals. I also respond to 911 calls. When an emergency occurs, I provide first aid until the emergency crew arrives, then I direct emergency vehicles and traffic. Paperwork and reports take a great deal of time, but law enforcement records must be complete and accurate, or the wrong individual could be held responsible for an accident or crime. Court cases are heavily influenced by the information contained in my reports.

### ***The best part of my job***

Preventing and solving crimes and helping people who are involved in an accident or crime are rewarding aspects of my work. If I stop a robbery or murder before it occurs, I know I've kept a citizen from being hurt or killed, and I've taken a perpetrator off the streets. If, however, a crime has already been committed, I think of it as a puzzle with many clues that I have to put together. I am relentless in examining the clues and evidence to try to solve a case.

### ***The worst part of my job***

Bad things happen to good people, and I see the worst of it every day. Sometimes it's hard not to get depressed, angry, and frustrated when a pedestrian is killed by a drunken driver or a child is abused by a parent. The stress and danger of my job affects my family. They have to make an effort not to worry about me every time I leave for work.

### ***Law Enforcement Officers tend to have the following characteristics:***

- ✓ Strong sense of responsibility
- ✓ Physical fitness
- ✓ Desire to work with and meet people
- ✓ Good reasoning and language skills
- ✓ Ability to handle stress
- ✓ A "take-charge" personality
- ✓ Observational skills
- ✓ Good listening skills

### ***Education required:***

Associate's degree in criminal justice, police science, or related field

### ***Suggested Courses:***

English, math, social studies, science, computer science, foreign language

## Career Information

### *What I need to know and be able to do*

Law enforcement officers must know how to investigate a crime scene and gather evidence properly. They must also be familiar with constitutional law and civil rights. Officers must be proficient in the use of firearms, self-defense, first aid, and emergency response. They should be in excellent physical shape and possess strong communication skills, such as listening, speaking, writing, and reading.

### *How I prepared for my job*

Ever since I was a teenager, I've wanted to go into the field of law enforcement. After I graduated from high school, I enrolled in a two-year program and earned my associate's degree in criminal justice. To become an officer, I attended the police academy. I passed written and physical examinations and met strict personal requirements.

### *How I could have prepared better*

Computers have made it easier to gather information when investigating cases. Now my squad car is equipped with an on-board computer that I use for researching vehicle and driver information when I stop a car, and for other research when I'm investigating a case. If I knew more about computers and the Internet, I could work faster when I access the on-line databases that contain motor-vehicle registrations, credit reports, and other information.

### **Salary Range:**

\$30,000 to \$65,000

### **Related Jobs:**

Correctional officer, security guard, fire marshal, private investigator

### **Occupational Outlook:**

Faster than average growth due to security and terrorist concerns

# Career Vocabulary



*acronym* - a word or term formed from the first letter of several words; for example, ASAP is the acronym for As Soon As Possible

*Bill of Rights* - the first ten amendments of the Constitution of the United States that guarantee a citizen's individual rights or freedoms

*citation* - a ticket written by a police officer for a violation of the law, for example, a speeding ticket

*civil liberties* - the rights or freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights

*crime scene investigator* - a person who uses scientific methods, physical evidence, and deductive reasoning to gain knowledge of the series of events that surround the commission of a crime

*degrade* - to deteriorate, to lower the quality of something, to become unusable

*DNA* - the acronym for DeoxyriboNucleic Acid, the basic genetic material found in the cells of all living things

*first responder* - the first law enforcement officer or emergency services person to arrive on the scene of a crime or accident

*forensics* - application of science and technology to solve crimes

*forensic accountants* - financial accountants who apply scientific and technological methods to detect tax fraud

*Internal Revenue Service* - also known as the IRS; the government agency responsible for collecting income tax from citizens and businesses

*junk science* - activities that appear to be based on scientific principles, but whose results are unreliable because the procedures are faulty or inconsistent, or because the results are open to different interpretations

## Career Vocabulary

*legitimate expectation of privacy* - a situation or place in which a citizen can reasonably expect privacy, such as their home; people cannot reasonably expect privacy in public surroundings

*Miranda Warning* - a list of an American citizen's constitutional rights when arrested; the Miranda warning is read to people who have been taken into custody to ensure that they are legally aware of their rights, such as the right to an attorney

*probable cause* - a good reason to believe a crime either has been or is being committed. For example, a moving vehicle weaving across lanes is a good reason to believe that the driver is probably under the influence of alcohol or drugs. An officer has probable cause to stop and interrogate the driver.

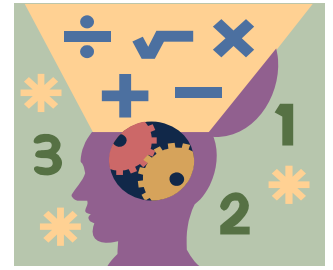
*perpetrator* - a person who commits an illegal act

*polygraph test* - an instrument that evaluates a person's physical reaction to pointed questions; another name for a lie detector test

*VASCAR Unit* - an acronym for Visual Average Speed Computer and Record; an on-board computer used by police officers in their squad cars to measure the speed of moving vehicles

*waiving of rights* - agreeing to speak with an investigator without an attorney present after receiving a Miranda warning

## Math



### “Sorry, Officer, I was in a hurry.”

Lately your police department has received a rising number of complaints from residents about drivers speeding along Westlake Drive. Westlake is a residential area where children and pets often play in the yards and parks. Today you are assigned to monitor the traffic on Westlake. You will issue citations to speeders in an effort to encourage drivers to slow down.

### Part I Gotcha!

To determine how fast drivers are traveling, you will use a VASCAR unit. VASCAR is an acronym for Visual Average Speed Computer and Record.

To set up a VASCAR stop, you will draw two lines, placed .0669 of a mile apart. Each line will go from one side of the road to the other. As a car approaches the first line, you will switch on your VASCAR Unit. It will measure the amount of time the car takes to cover the distance between the two lines and display the miles per hour the car is traveling. Though the VASCAR unit does all the work, it's important for you to understand the VASCAR's calculations.



A car travels the distance between the two lines of .0669 miles in 4.46 seconds as measured by the VASCAR unit.

Step 1: Calculate the speed at which the car is traveling in miles per second (mps) using the following formula.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Distance} / \text{Time} &= \text{Speed} \\ .0669 \text{ miles} / 4.46 \text{ seconds} &= .015 \text{ mps} \end{aligned}$$

Step 2: Calculate how many miles per hour (mph) the car is traveling.

- a. Multiply the speed per second by the number of seconds in an hour.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Miles per second} \times \text{number of seconds in an hour} &= \text{Miles per hour} \\ \text{Answer: } .015 \text{ mps} \times 3600 \text{ (seconds in an hour)} &= 54 \text{ mph} \end{aligned}$$

# Math



## Activity 1

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

The chart below shows the distance traveled by several vehicles and the time it took for each vehicle to travel that distance. Calculate the speed in miles per second (mps), rounded to four decimal places, and miles per hour (mph), rounded to a whole number.

<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>MPS</u>	<u>MPH</u>
Black Ford Explorer	.0749	4.89		
Red Porsche	.0657	2.98		
Volkswagen Jetta	.0543	3.42		
Chevy pickup	.0837	5.52		
Jeep Wrangler	.0882	4.73		
Silver Nissan 350Z	.0598	2.53		
Blue Honda Civic	.0932	5.25		
Jaguar XK	.0777	3.76		
White Subaru Outback	.0818	6.23		
Dodge Ram	.0443	2.67		

## Math

### Part II Heavy on the Pedal - Heavy on the Wallet

Speeding tickets are not cheap, and the faster drivers travel, the more they have to pay. The basic fine for speeding in many states is \$45.00. Two dollars are often added to that for every mile per hour a driver is traveling over the speed limit.



If a driver travels 64 mph in a 45 mph zone, she is going 19 mph over the speed limit. The ticket cost will be \$45.00 plus an additional \$38.00 (19 x \$2.00). The driver's speeding fine will be \$83.00.



### Activity 2

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Calculate the fine for the drivers' speeding violations.

1. The Porsche travels 98 mph in a 70 mph zone.

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Basic fine} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{MPH over the speed limit} \end{array} \times \$2.00 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Speeding fine}$$

2. The Volkswagen Jetta travels 67 mph in a 40 mph zone.

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Basic fine} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{MPH over the speed limit} \end{array} \times \$2.00 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Speeding fine}$$

3. The Jaguar XK travels 113 mph in a 75 mph zone.

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Basic fine} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{MPH over the speed limit} \end{array} \times \$2.00 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Speeding fine}$$

4. The Chevy pickup travels 87 mph in a 55 mph zone.

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Basic fine} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{MPH over the speed limit} \end{array} \times \$2.00 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Speeding fine}$$

5. The Honda Civic travels 58 mph in a 25 mph zone.

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Basic fine} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{MPH over the speed limit} \end{array} \times \$2.00 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Speeding fine}$$

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Math



## Activity 3

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

As a police officer, you're familiar with the look on drivers' faces when they read their speeding citations. Their eyes get large as they read down the list of fees that go along with the speeding fine. In addition to the fine for speeding, many states charge the following fees to offenders.

\$ 1.50 Judicial computerization program (JCP)

\$28.50 Court costs

\$10.00 Emergency medical services (EMS)

\$30.00 Catastrophic insurance fund (CAT)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Amount of additional fees

Calculate the total fine written on the citations given to the drivers of the vehicles in Part II by adding the additional fees to the speeding fine for each vehicle.

1. Porsche \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Speeding fine Additional Fees Total fine

2. Volkswagen Jetta \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Speeding fine Additional Fees Total fine

3. Jaguar XK \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Speeding fine Additional Fees Total fine

4. Chevy pickup \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Speeding fine Additional Fees Total fine

5. Honda Civic \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Speeding fine Additional Fees Total fine



## Science

### Fact or Science Fiction?

When news programs use the word forensics while reporting crime stories, and television or movie actors talk about forensics, they are referring to the science and technology used to solve crimes. If you've watched the TV shows CSI Las Vegas, CSI Miami or CSI New York, or if you've seen NCIS or any of the other popular crime shows, you know the type of work that forensic scientists do.

Hairs, fingernails, body fluids, cigarette butts, lipstick, skin particles, bullets, or shavings remaining in guns after the bullets are fired—all of these items and just about anything else you can imagine—often turn into evidence at a trial after a forensic scientist has analyzed them. Technology and science allow these professionals to solve a puzzle that often cannot be solved in any other way.

From sophisticated computer applications to DNA analysis, every type of technology used in solving crimes can be called forensic science. You might not think of accounting as a forensic science, but the Internal Revenue Service hires forensic accountants to discover tax fraud.

Ideally, the facts that are uncovered by forensic scientists will stand up in a court of law. However, because these facts are often based on interpretation, their usefulness can be controversial. Judges and juries do not always accept forensic evidence as fact.

### Part I Big Clues Come in Little Packages

As a law enforcement officer, you won't have to be a genetic scientist, but you will need to know enough about DNA to be able to apply scientific principles to the analysis of DNA evidence. Often, this will be evidence that is invisible to the naked eye.

Every law enforcement officer, from the cop on the beat to the most sophisticated crime scene investigator (CSI), is a possible first responder at a crime scene. This officer must know the proper scientific methods of collecting, handling, storing, and protecting DNA evidence.

# Science



## Activity 1

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

All living things leave behind some of their cells wherever they go. DNA is like a fingerprint in that it can identify people and is an excellent source of evidence at a crime scene. Using the Internet, library, or your science textbook, complete the following activities about DNA (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid) evidence.

List nine sources of cells that contain DNA and might be left behind unknowingly by a criminal. This evidence could be collected and analyzed during the investigation of the crime. The first answer is filled in as an example.

1. skin \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_



## Activity 2

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

If DNA evidence is properly collected, handled, and stored, it will be useful for many years. However, if proper scientific procedures are not followed, DNA evidence can biologically degrade or fall apart and become useless.

List four environmental or natural factors that can cause samples you collect to deteriorate.

1. Heat \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Science



### Activity 3

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Every living thing that comes near a crime scene can leave its DNA. Therefore, some samples can have more than one source of DNA. If this occurs, the DNA evidence has been contaminated. In your job as a law enforcement officer, you may become frustrated when important criminal cases in which you have grabbed the criminal are hindered because a careless DNA collector allowed the evidence to become contaminated during the collection process, making it unfit to use in a criminal trial.



If skin cells from a collector's hand are mixed with the DNA at a crime scene, results may be difficult or even impossible to interpret. As a law enforcement officer, it is your responsibility to protect the evidence from contamination.

Read the following statements and place a “C” beside the situations that can cause contamination of a sample. Place a plus sign beside the situations where good scientific methods were used.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A crime scene investigator whose allergies cause frequent coughing and sneezing is wearing a facemask.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ An ungloved officer is looking through a purse found at a crime scene for identification of a victim.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ While collecting evidence, an officer pushes her hair back from her face.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ A man who was walking near a crime scene hands you a bandanna that his dog retrieved after it was dropped by a person running away from the scene.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ An officer is picking up cigarette butts found near the scene and placing them all together in a plastic bag.

## Science

### Activity 3 (Continued)

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Using cotton swabs, a crime scene investigator collects blood samples from the scene of a stabbing. She air-dries each swab, places them in individual paper envelopes, and labels each one.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ While collecting evidence, you scratch a mosquito bite and continue to package samples.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ You've worn the same clothes at three different crime scenes today, so you're anxious to get home, shower, and change.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A detective pulls a handkerchief out of his pocket to carefully handle a weapon found at the scene of a crime.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ An investigator at a crime scene is using prepackaged disposable tools to handle, collect, and package crime scene evidence.

## Science

### Part II To Tell the Truth

You have decided to apply for a part-time job in the security office of the local mall. As a potential employee, you are asked to take a polygraph or "lie detector" test as part of the application process. You are actually looking forward to the test because your interest in law enforcement makes you curious about how a polygraph test works. You've often wondered about the accuracy of the results.

When you arrive for the interview, you are taken to a private room, where you are left alone with an examiner. He explains that a polygraph is designed to monitor your body's reactions to questions about yourself, events, and situations.

Because the body and the mind are connected, the examiner looks for significant involuntary responses to questions that cause you to become stressed. This will indicate that you might be lying. While stress is often associated with deception, just because someone is stressed does not necessarily mean that he is lying.

The examiner places a blood pressure cuff on your arm and attaches medical devices around your chest and on your fingers to measure involuntary physical responses. These responses are recorded by the polygraph machine for later interpretation by the examiner.



### Activity 4

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Use the Internet, the library, or ask your science teacher to help you identify from the list below the involuntary responses that a polygraph measures.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Body movements
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Respiratory rate
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Eye contact
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Body temperature
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Sweat
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Blood pressure/heart rate
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Electrical activity of the brain
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Ringing in the ears

# Science



## Activity 5

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Match the word or phrase in column A to the definition in Column B. Use a dictionary, the Internet, or library to complete the activity.

### Column A

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Sympathetic nervous system

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Forensic psychophysiolgist

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Galvanic skin resistance

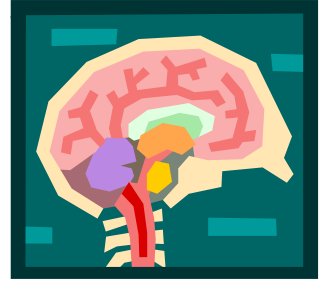
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Epinephrine

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Galvanometer

### Column B

- a. fingerplates that measure the skin's ability to conduct electricity
- b. a secretion of the adrenal glands that increases when a person is nervous or afraid and affects the sweat glands, causing the individual to sweat more
- c. part of the autonomic nervous system, which works at the subconscious level and controls the functions of many organs (heart, blood vessels, glands, intestines and bladder)
- d. a trained polygraph examiner
- e. a measurement of the amount of electricity the skin can conduct. This measure is affected by moisture, in this case sweat

## Critical Thinking



### Reliable or Not?

Polygraphs, also called lie detector tests, are very controversial. They have been called "junk science" by many members of the scientific community. Although polygraphs are used by the government and law enforcement agencies, the results of polygraphs are so questionable that they are rarely allowed as evidence in a court of law.

Consider the following facts and then state your opinion as to the validity and usefulness of polygraphs.

1. A polygraph test cannot recognize a lie. The testing machine can only recognize body changes that might be the result of tension or stress.
2. People do not have identical emotional reactions to questions.
3. Although the polygraph machine itself is essentially the same for all situations, the purpose of the examination, type of individual tested, examiner training, physical setting of the examination, and type of questions asked, can be different.
4. Characteristics of the person being tested such as emotional stability, intelligence, health, willingness to be tested, and belief in the machine may affect the body's reactions.
5. Scientifically acceptable research on polygraph testing is hard to design and conduct.
6. Law enforcement officials value the polygraph test as an interrogation tool and a deterrent because people who believe in the machine will often provide the examiner with important information. Sometimes people even confess to a crime while they are being examined.



### Activity

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Opinion: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Just for Fun

### Is Your Future Career a Mystery?

Your experience with the polygraph test for your job interview at the mall security office was interesting, but it wasn't as exciting as the criminal investigation science you've seen on TV. Forensic scientists in entertainment and the news always make astounding discoveries from the slimmest bit of evidence. This is usually an exaggeration of the reality experienced in day-to-day investigations.



### Activity

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Many careers exist in the forensic field. Form a team with a few classmates and read the clues below about forensic and crime scene investigation careers. Pay close attention to the words in the clues. Use your wits, the Internet, library, and any other resources you have to identify the careers the clues suggest.

Career No. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Clue a. I help investigators develop a comprehensive picture of the crime scene.

Clue b. I like to see criminals caught in a flash!

Career No. 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Clue a. Some people consider my work disgusting, but I discover the bugs in a problem.

Clue b. I know how to worm my way through the evidence.

Career No. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Clue a. If there are any skeletons in your closet, it's my job to study them.

Clue b. I investigate the evidence of a crime right down to the bone.

Career No. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Clue a. I have a job you can really sink your teeth into.

Clue b. My profession takes a real bite out of crime.

## Just for Fun (Continued)

Career No. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Clue a. I help solve knotty problems.

Clue b. People say my job keeps me tied up.

Career No. 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Clue a. I help point a finger at criminals.

Clue b. In my job, the only weapons I need are a little bit of dust and a piece of tape.

Career No. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

Clue a. I'm more concerned with "why" than "how".

Clue b. I have to shrink the evidence down to an educated opinion about a criminal's state of mind.

Career No. 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Clue a. I'm more interested in a criminal's Internet protocol (IP) address than the criminal's home address.

Clue b. The witnesses that I interrogate have good memories. They don't forget anything, although they do tend to give me information in bytes and pieces.



### Related Websites

For further information about the collection of DNA evidence and to learn how lie detectors work, visit

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/000614.htm>

What Every Law Enforcement Officer Should Know About DNA Evidence  
brochure published by the National Institute of Justice

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/lie-detector.htm>

How Lie Detectors Work

## Social Studies



### Read Him His Rights!

Your job as a law enforcement officer is to protect the constitutional rights of every member of society, including the rights of people who are suspected of, or charged with, a crime. If a law enforcement officer or the courts have violated a person's rights, criminal cases may not come to trial at all. Some cases are thrown out of court or important evidence is suppressed on a technicality and guilt or innocence is never established.

### Part I The Top Ten

The Bill of Rights is contained in the first ten amendments of the Constitution of the United States. Considered the backbone of the American Constitution, the Bill of Rights has been called "the most comprehensive protection of individual freedom ever written." It is important to be familiar with your basic rights, both as an enforcement officer and as a citizen. These rights, also called civil liberties, are protected by the Constitution and they apply to every member of our society.



### Activity 1

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Use the Internet or library to learn about the first ten amendments to the constitution. Write a description of the individual right that is protected by each of the amendments.

- 1st Amendment \_\_\_\_\_
- 2nd Amendment \_\_\_\_\_
- 3rd Amendment \_\_\_\_\_
- 4th Amendment \_\_\_\_\_
- 5th Amendment \_\_\_\_\_
- 6th Amendment \_\_\_\_\_
- 7th Amendment \_\_\_\_\_
- 8th Amendment \_\_\_\_\_
- 9th Amendment \_\_\_\_\_
- 10th Amendment \_\_\_\_\_

## Social Studies

### Part II "Do you understand each of these rights I have explained to you?"

*"You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to stop answering my questions at any time. You have the right to speak to an attorney and to have an attorney present during questioning. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be provided for you at government expense. Do you understand each of these rights I have explained to you? Now that I have advised you of your rights, are you willing to answer my questions without an attorney present? "*

#### **Miranda Warning**

In movies and television shows, you may have heard an arresting officer recite the Miranda Warning to a suspect who has been taken into custody. The purpose of the Miranda Warning is to inform people of their right to remain silent under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

Before a law enforcement officer can question a suspect who has been taken into custody, the suspect must have been given the Miranda Warning or "read the rights." If an arrested person speaks to law enforcement without an attorney present after hearing the Miranda Warning, the individual is said to be "waiving the rights" or giving up the protection that an attorney offers.

When suspects in custody waive their rights, law enforcement officers still have to be very careful about questioning. Before statements and confessions can be used in a trial, the court has to be positive that the statements were given voluntarily and that the suspects understood and waived their rights knowingly and intelligently. If, for any reason, defendants could not understand the Miranda warning, then he or she could not waive their rights. One cannot knowingly and intelligently waive a right that cannot be understood or appreciated.

You are about to question a suspect who been given the Miranda Warning and has waived his rights. Which of the following factors might affect a court's decision to accept the suspect's statements or confession? Place an X beside the factors that might mean a suspect did not understand his rights.

## Social Studies



### Activity 2

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. The suspect is 15 years of age.
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. The suspect does not speak English well.
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. The suspect did not complete high school.
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. The suspect is under the influence of drugs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. The suspect has never been arrested before.
- \_\_\_\_\_ F. The suspect has a low IQ and limited vocabulary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ G. The suspect suffers from a mental disability.
- \_\_\_\_\_ H. The suspect is under the influence of alcohol.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I. The suspect is elderly.

### Part III "Miranda, Who?"

Was Miranda a citizen, lawyer, or a judge who was concerned with constitutional law? Maybe Miranda was a law enforcement officer. Was Miranda young or old? Was Miranda a woman or a man?

Use your detective skills to search the Internet or library, then write a short explanation of who Miranda was and how the Miranda Warning came to be a required part of law enforcement.



### Activity 3

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

---

---

---

## In the News



### What's the Limit?

Consider this: During all of America's major wars—The Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and The Vietnam War—the government passed laws that restricted Americans' civil liberties. The reason was to keep people from dissenting, silencing criticism of political decisions, and preserving national security. For example, during the Civil war, President Abraham Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus, which guarantees that a person will not be imprisoned without a legal reason. During WWI Congress enacted two laws that made it a federal crime to criticize the war effort and the draft.

The war on terrorism is no exception. In an effort to deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States and around the world, and to enhance law enforcement investigatory tools, congress passed the USA Patriot Act of 2001. It is called the Patriot Act because the purpose of the act is: The Uniting and Strengthening of America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism.

This law gives unprecedented powers to the president and law enforcement in a time of national emergency. It has caused concern among some people because of the threat it poses to the civil liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.



### Activity 1

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Using the Internet, library, or current news stories, research the provisions of the Patriot Act. Identify the new powers given to law enforcement and the civil liberties that are at risk.

---

---

---

Classroom Discussion: To what extent is it acceptable for the government to limit civil liberties in times of war or national emergency?



## Related Websites

Visit

[http://www.supremecourtus.gov/publicinfo/speeches/sp\\_05-03-00.html](http://www.supremecourtus.gov/publicinfo/speeches/sp_05-03-00.html)

Read a speech delivered by Supreme Court Justice Rehnquist concerning civil liberties during wartime.

Visit

<http://www.law.duke.edu/publiclaw/civil/index.php?action=showtopic&topicid=1>

Duke Law Civil Liberties Online: “Civil Liberties in Wartime: Supreme Court Case Law on the Protection of Civil Liberties During Times of War.”

Visit

<http://www.aclu.org/safefree/index.html>

The American Civil Liberties Union to read some of the concerns about the Patriot Act.



## English/Communications

This is your first year as an officer on the police force. As part of a community relations program, you and three other rookies have been selected to deliver a presentation to the students in your local school. Each officer is expected to give a three-minute talk on an important law enforcement issue that affects the community.

The goal of the talks is to influence students' thinking. The tone of your voice and the words you use are important. You want to communicate with the students in a manner they will respond to, and you want your language to reflect well on your position as an officer and a role model.

Choose a topic from the four listed below and use the suggested outline to write a talk that you can deliver in the three minutes allotted to you.



### Activity

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

#### Topics

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Vandalism
- Violence
- Road Rage

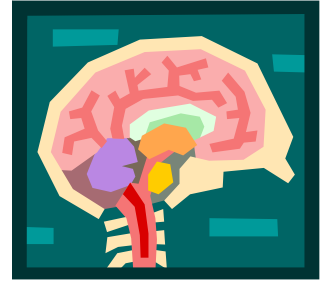
#### Suggested outline

- I. Introduction
  - A. Introduce yourself
  - B. Introduce your topic
- II. Main points
  - A. What are the reasons for the problem your topic is about?
  - B. Why do people engage in this type of activity?
  - C. What are the consequences of this activity to the individual, the person's family, and the community?
    1. Legal consequences
    2. Financial consequences
    3. Emotional consequences
  - D. Positive ways to react to or handle this kind of problem





## Critical Thinking



### How Sharp Are You?

Law enforcement officers must be observant. Their reading skills should be excellent and they must have good memories. Police exams contain written exercises that test these skills.



### Activity

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Following is a short memory story. Choose a partner and then read the story carefully. You may only read once and you may not take notes. After you have read the story, give it to your partner. Ask your partner to question you about five facts in the story to test your reading comprehension and your memory.

#### **Officer's Report of October 10, 2002**

At 2:38 Thursday afternoon, officers Michael Trainer and Sally Walters, of the Summer City Police Department, responded to a call at 27 Winter Drive. Residents, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Howard, reported they had seen one heavysset man, a short woman wearing a denim jacket, and a tall, thin teenager with blonde hair entering and exiting a neighbor's house at 33 Spring Avenue, located on the street behind the Howard's home. The Howards believed their neighbors, the Robbins, to be on vacation. The Robbins were expected to return on the 27th of October.

The two officers visited the Robbins home and found that a rear entrance had been forced open. Entering the kitchen through the forced door, the officers immediately noticed two dirty blue bowls and spoons on a counter, along with an empty carton of skim milk and an open box of Corn Crispy cereal. The doors of the kitchen cupboards were ajar and the contents had been rummaged through.

Throughout the house, officers found evidence of a burglary. The contents of drawers were spilled on the floor and a locked desk had been pried open. Officer Trainer noticed electric bills, check books, and a postcard from Mexico scattered on the surface of the desk. Upstairs, Officer Walters found the bathroom medicine cabinet wide open. Aspirin, cold medicines, and prescriptions for antibiotics and nitroglycerin had been tossed into the hand sink. Careful not to touch anything, the officers called for a forensics team to go over the home for fingerprints, fibers, and other possible evidence that could help identify the intruders.

# Critical Thinking

## How Sharp Are You?

What five facts did your partner ask and what was your answer?

1. Fact Asked: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Fact Asked: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Fact Asked: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Fact Asked: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Fact Asked: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Workplace Politics and Personalities



### A Second Chance?

You have been a state trooper for almost a year now. The police academy was hard work. You are proud of your accomplishments and anxious to be a respected officer. You've been trained "by-the-book." You show favoritism to no one.

One night, you pull over a driver who has been driving erratically, traveling both above and below the speed limit and weaving into oncoming lanes. When the driver rolls down his window, you can smell alcohol but, surprisingly, he is relieved and happy to see you. The driver is your best friend's father.

Instantly, the seriousness of the situation races through your mind. You've known this man all of your life. You spend as much time with his family as you do with your own. In fact, you and your best friend just finished making plans for a camping trip at the end of the month.

You know the penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol are severe in your state, even for a first offense. If the driver is convicted of a DUI, it will affect his job and his family, and he'll be humiliated. You immediately think about your best friend. How will you face him if you bring his father up on charges?

At the same time, it's impossible not to flash back to the gruesome accidents you've witnessed where innocent victims were crippled and even lost their lives because of a drunk driver.



### Activity

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Explain what you will do in this situation.

---

---

---

Student's Name

Date

28





## Related Websites - General

Visit

[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation hosts a comprehensive law enforcement web site

Touring this website is time well spent whether you are interested in law enforcement or simply curious about history and the FBI. Be sure to locate the site map to find all of the available information.

Visit

<http://www.cfiweb.com/practiceEX.htm>

You can download and take a free practice police exam.

Visit

<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html>

Here you'll find the United States Constitution Online and other historical American documents, including the Miranda Warning.



## Challenge Activity: Social Studies

### You be the Judge

*"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or thing to be seized."*

*Fourth Amendment, Constitution of the United States*

The Fourth Amendment places limits on the power of the police to make arrests, search people and their property, and seize objects, documents, and contraband (such as illegal drugs or weapons). People claim their right to Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure in our courtrooms on a daily basis.

Every law enforcement officer is trained to understand the Fourth Amendment and abide by the laws that govern "reasonable search and seizure" in criminal cases. This is a continuing challenge for law enforcement officers because the rules are complex.

Here are the basic concepts governing "search and seizure" under the Fourth Amendment:

1. The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable search and seizure by state or federal law enforcement authorities.
2. The Fourth Amendment permits searches and seizures that are considered reasonable. For a search to be considered reasonable:
  - A. The police must have **probable cause** to believe they can find evidence that a crime was committed and a court must issue a search warrant.
  - B. A search without a warrant is considered reasonable under certain circumstances. Some examples are these: the person consents to a search; the evidence is in plain view; the police are in hot pursuit of a suspected criminal; the search is made at the time of a lawful arrest; or the situation is an emergency.

## Challenge Activity: Social Studies (Continued)

3. The Fourth Amendment is about privacy and only applies to a search if a person has a legitimate expectation of privacy in the place or thing searched. If not, the Fourth Amendment offers no protection.

For example, people can expect privacy in their home; they cannot expect privacy in a public park. A person can expect the belongings in his or her wallet or purse to be private, but they cannot expect belongings on the front seat of their car to be private because anyone passing by can see them.

When a question arises about the legality of a search and seizure of evidence, the final decision belongs to a judge.



### Activity

Click on the question mark to enter your answer.

Following are real-life court cases that challenged the actions of law enforcement officers conducting "search and seizure" activities. Read the summary of each case and give your opinion as to whether the search and seizure was legal. After you write your opinion, enter the name of the case into a search engine such as Google, and find the court's decision. Compare your opinion with the opinion of the court.

#### Case No. 1: The Running Man

Supreme Court of the United States - Illinois v. William aka Sam Wardlow

Two uniformed officers in the special operations section of the Chicago Police Department were driving the last car of a four-car caravan investigating drug transactions in an area known for heavy narcotics trafficking.

As the caravan passed West Van Buren Avenue, one of the officers observed Sam Wardlow standing next to a building holding a bag. Mr. Wardlow looked in the direction of the officers and fled.

## Challenge Activity: Social Studies

### Case No. 1: The Running Man (continued)

The officers chased and cornered Wardlow. One of the officers immediately conducted a protective pat-down search for weapons because in his experience weapons are commonly present in most narcotics transactions.

During the frisk, Officer Nolan grasped the bag Wardlow was carrying and felt an object similar to a gun. The officer then opened the bag and discovered a .38-caliber handgun with five live rounds of ammunition. The officers arrested Wardlow.

Was this search legal? Why or why not?

Your opinion:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Court's opinion:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Challenge Activity: Social Studies

### Case No. 2: Smoking in the Girl's Room

Supreme Court of the United States - New Jersey v. T.L.O.

A teacher caught two students smoking in the school lavatory and took them to the assistant principal's office to be questioned. One of the girls (T.L.O.) denied that she had been smoking. The assistant principal searched her purse and found cigarettes as well as rolling papers. A further search revealed marijuana, a pipe, and a substantial amount of money in small bills. The assistant principal then opened a zippered compartment in her purse and found letters implicating T.L.O. in selling drugs to other students. The evidence was turned over to the police and the state brought delinquency charges against the student. She argued that the evidence found in her purse was illegally obtained and, therefore, could not be used against her.

Was the student's purse illegally searched? Why or why not?

Your opinion:

---

---

---

---

---

The Court's opinion:

---

---

---

---

---

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Challenge Activity: Social Studies

### Case No. 3: The “Tipster” Room

Supreme Court of the United States - Florida v. J.L.

After an anonymous caller reported to the Miami-Dade, Florida, police that a young male standing at a particular bus stop and wearing a plaid shirt was carrying a gun, officers went to the bus stop and saw three males, one of whom, J. L., was wearing a plaid shirt. Apart from the tip, the officers had no reason to suspect any of the three of illegal conduct. The officers did not see a firearm or observe any unusual movements. One of the officers frisked J. L. and seized a gun from his pocket. J. L., who was then almost 16, was charged under state law with carrying a concealed firearm without a license and possessing a firearm while under the age of 18.

Was J.L. searched illegally? Why or why not?

Your opinion:

---

---

---

---

---

The Court's opinion:

---

---

---

---

---