

## Participation in Government The Court System 3D Project

### Why is it called the 3D project?

The 3D part of the project is anything that is not a written report. You will choose a topic that you would like to know more about regarding the court system. After completing a personal interview and research, you will present a mini-lesson that will include a three dimensional element of your project and a research paper.

### The stages of the 3D project:

1. The Interview
2. The Research
3. The Presentation
4. The Paper

### What is the purpose of such a project?

1. You will learn more about an area of the court system that is of interest to YOU.
2. You will meet someone who works in the court system and learn "first hand" from his or her life experiences.
3. You will conduct formal research in your area of interest.
4. You will teach our class a mini-lesson about your topic. (10-15 minutes)
5. You will SHOW us that you learned something NEW about the court system.
6. You will write a short research paper on your findings.
7. We will learn even more about the court system through the presentations of the people in our class.

### Time Schedule of Events:

#### December 20, 2012

Proposal due: Draft a proposal of the topic and your planned method of teaching.

Only ONE proposal per group required. The form should explain the following information:

- The main concept of your project (What are you actually going to study?)
- Are you working alone or with a partner? (If you have a partner, who is it?)  
EACH TEAM MAY CONSIST OF 1 or 2 PEOPLE
- How will this project demonstrate what you have learned about the court system?
- What teaching methods are you going to utilize to convey this topic?
- What NEW information are you going to teach? (This is a key point. Think carefully.)
- What method are you going to use to make this *interesting* as you teach? (What are you going to actually make or do that is three-dimensional?)

#### January 2, 2013

Interview outline due: Submit the name(s) of the person(s) you will interview, the interview date and time, a contact phone number and at least 10 questions you plan to ask during the interview. **Each person in a group must conduct their own interview.** If you are working with a partner you can attend both interviews together if you are more comfortable. I must have this information before you conduct your interview.

#### January 7, 2013

Submit a typed transcript or detailed summary of the completed interview. This should explain each question asked and answers that were given in detail. Sometimes it helps to tape your interview (on either video or audio). You need to first ask permission from your interviewee.

January 11, 2013

Submit a **TYPED** works cited list and a minimum of 16 note cards with research information from at least 4 different sources. (**Note: At least 2 sources cannot come from the Internet.**)

January 14, 2013

In-class presentations begin!

January 18, 2013

Six-page double-spaced research paper. Font on the paper must be Times Roman 12. Don't forget the works cited list!

### **Grading Rubric**

Proposal	5 points
Pre-interview questions	10 points
Completed interview transcript	15 points
Research note cards & works cited	20 points
Presentation/Project	25 points
Final Paper with works cited	25 points
Total	100 points

### **You will be graded on:**

- Professionalism and quality of both your written work and the presentation
- Ability to demonstrate that in-depth learning and understanding has taken place.  
TEACH US SOMETHING NEW
- Accuracy of information
- Creativity

Remember: This will be weighted as several tests. Please see me if you have any concerns or questions along the way. This is supposed to be Fun... and Educational... enjoy yourselves

### **Possible topics/Individuals to Interview**

District Attorney's Office	Victim Assistance
Public Defender's Office	Prisoner's rights advocates
Private criminal attorney	Drug Court counselors
Police/ Sheriffs	Juvenile Crime
Jail Deputies/Prison Warden	Arraignments
Ballistics expert	Paralegals
Computer Forensics expert	Hospital Emergency room
Medical Examiner	Grand Jury
Evidence room at DA's office	Court reporters
Bomb Squad	Racial profiling
K-9 Unit	FBI
Shock Camp/Alternatives to Prison	Transport deputies
Parole	Pre-trial release
Bail/Bail Bondsmen	Town Court Judge
Plea Bargaining	County Court Judge
Voir Dire	Supreme Court Judge
Sentencing	Family Court Judge
Death Penalty	ANY judge in ANY criminal court
Prepping witnesses	Homeland Security
State/County/City legislators... how do they try to turn the tide of criminal activity?	

**What can I do that would be 3D? What kind of suggestions do you have? Suggestions include: (but are not limited to...)**

- "The lawyer's exhibit": Build a detailed scale model of a crime scene, the autopsy, the arraignment, the grand jury, the courtroom during the trial, the jail, etc. This should be a professional creation that a lawyer may actually use during the trial to explain a concept to a jury.
- Make a Professional Video: Reenact an actual crime, the investigation, the trial, etc. on video demonstrating your understanding the events as they occurred. It is important to remember how to keep feelings and emotions out of accurate testimony. Then, follow it up with an informational section of the video, which explains the legal issues involved.
- Create a piece of art that could have been created by victims of any type(s) of crime that reflects their emotional state at any point during the case. Follow this up with a discussion of victim's issues/rights as it relates to criminal cases.
- Present information or a (simulated) demonstration on the medical techniques used during an autopsy or emergency surgery for gunshot wounds.
- Take photos (use at least 8) of a particular stage in a criminal trial OR the stages of a criminal trial. Present these photos in a format that would entice viewers to stop and study them. (i.e. not a poster)
- Write a song, rap or skit about a legal issue in the court system and perform it live or on video. Remember, it has to be educational and teach us something new.
- Create a children's book that teaches the reader about one aspect of the court system. The book should be illustrated in some way as well. It should be of professional quality. The trick is to teach us something new in a way that is easy for children to understand.
- Simulate a debate on a controversial issue or a trial.
- Role play a scenario from a crime scene, autopsy, jury selection, etc.
- Demonstrate a technique used in the criminal justice system: how to conduct a proper arrest, how to do a DNA or fingerprint comparison, how to use bomb squad equipment, airport security, etc.
- Come up with your own cool idea.