

Writing Prompts/Bell Ringers for Know the Law

1. “You may outgrow your responsibility to listen to your parents, but you will never outgrow your responsibility to obey the law. The best way to remain in charge of your own life is to know the law, and obey it. Do otherwise, and you are responsible for putting someone that you do not even know in charge of telling you everything from where you can go and what you can do, all the way down to what you can wear, and what you can eat.” --Honorable Michael Takac, Juvenile Judge, 5th Circuit Court
 - Summarize, in your own words, what the judge is trying to tell you?
 - Do you agree or disagree, and why?
2. Scenario: Your friend calls you and he/she is having a party at their house while his/her parents are gone. He/she tells you their older sibling bought a keg and wine coolers. A lot of popular students planned on coming, including someone you would like to get to know better. There is talk that there will be some drugs to try as well.
 - If you decide to go, what risks are you taking and what legal consequences could ensue?
 - Have you or someone you know ever been in a similar situation? What happened?
3. Read the following sentence and then answer questions A and B: ***Huffing is sniffing, inhaling, ingesting or possessing with intent to inhale harmful chemical substances.***
 - A. Which of the following pairs of chemicals would NOT be considered harmful chemical substances?
 1. Gasoline and White Out
 2. Nitrous oxide and Model airplane glue
 3. Spray paint and Sharpie markers
 4. Crayola scented markers and Elmer’s glue
 - B. Relate your knowledge of nasal membranes to the act of huffing a chemical to explain why this is such a fast high?
4. You came to school with a terrible headache. During 1st period, your best friend offers you a pill that he/she says will make your headache go away. You don’t know what this pill is because your friend doesn’t have the prescription bottle with them.
 - Would you take this pill? Why or why not?
 - Your friend is risking a second-degree felony with up to 15 years in prison. Why do you think the law is this strict about giving a single pill to someone at school or within 1000 ft. of school property? (Include any knowledge you have regarding the law and alcohol/narcotics.)

5. It is unlawful for a person under the age of 21 who has a blood-alcohol or breath-alcohol level of 0.02 or higher to drive or be in actual physical control of a motor vehicle. That is generally one 12-ounce beer or one ounce (a shot) of hard liquor for the average full grown male under 21 years old.
- Based on the information given above, what other factors could change the effect of that single beer on a person?
 - A petite cheerleader who skipped dinner had a beer. Why do you think this person would be considered under the influence?
 - What about the massive linebacker for the football team who drank 2 beers and ate 12 Krystal burgers? Why or why not?

6. Read the following scenario and answer the questions that follow:

One Saturday Steven asked Jeff if he would drive him to the nearest city. When they got to the city, Steven asked Jeff to drive across town to a particular address. When they arrived, Steven asked Jeff to wait in the car while he ran inside for a few minutes. After he returned, Jeff asked what was going on and Steven pulled out a bag of white powder. He admitted it was his drug connection, and the powder was crystal meth. When Jeff asked him why he didn't tell him why they came to the city, Steven said he didn't tell him because he figured Jeff wouldn't go.

That night Jeff couldn't sleep because he felt overwhelmed by what he had found out. He knew meth was no good and that Steven would continue using it with or without his help. He was angry that Steven would put him in the position of driving with an illegal substance, but even more importantly he was worried about his friend.

- Have you ever been in a position where you had trouble saying you didn't want to do something with a friend? What obstacles did you face?
 - How do you think Jeff would feel if he didn't tell anyone and Steven overdosed on meth?
7. You heard that one of your friends has a shotgun in his truck from hunting over the weekend. He is afraid to tell anyone that he forgot to take it out of his truck and he has parked on campus.
- What would you tell him to do?

8. The law states that a victim of battery doesn't have to be harmed or injured. Any nonconsensual touching is sufficient to be considered battery and it is considered a Personal Crime.
- The law states that a victim of battery doesn't have to be harmed or injured. Any nonconsensual touching is sufficient to be considered battery and it is considered a Personal Crime.
 - Create an imaginary situation where a friend of yours could be charged with battery.
9. It is Halloween and your friends and you decide to go "egging" cars; however, "egging" a car may damage the paint. The law considers this as Criminal Mischief because you have damaged someone's property on purpose. If the damage to the car is greater than \$1,000, you can be charged with a felony. Felony crimes carry a minimum of 6 months to 5 years in a residential program or a maximum of 5 years on probation.
- How would this information affect your decision on future pranks?
10. Jen plans to call the school with a bomb threat so everyone can get out of class. Johnny thinks this is a good idea because he has a test today that he didn't study for.
- Do you think that this would be a good idea? Why or why not?
11. Cyber-bullying is on the rise.
- Create five (5) statements that you think are considered cyber-bullying.
 - Has this ever happened to you? If so, how did it make you feel?
12. A girl in your class is angry because you were talking to her boyfriend. She tells you, "I better not see you at the game tonight!" You feel threatened, and you have seen her in fights before.
- What could you say or do to try to diffuse this situation?
 - Is there a point at which you should tell an adult? If so, who?
13. Kacy is walking down the street when he sees Danika, a girl he knows from his school. Kacy yells across to Danika "Go home where you belong, we don't want you here you terrorist." When Danika ignores him, Kacy walks over and pushes Danika to the ground and starts hitting and kicking her. Kacy is initially charged with simple battery, a 1st degree misdemeanor; however, due to his statement before he hit Danika, his charge could be enhanced as a hate crime.
- Write a short paragraph comparing and contrasting the possible punishment Kacy could face depending on how he is charged (i.e. simple battery (1st degree misdemeanor) vs. hate crime (3rd degree felony)).

14. It is against the law to willfully flee or elude a police officer as defined on page 22 of your “Know the Law” handbook. Other than the legal penalties what are some other possible consequences that might arise from fleeing and eluding a police officer?
15. Scenario: At age 13, Josh was caught stealing candy bars from Wal-Mart and charged with misdemeanor shoplifting. Now, as a senior in high school, he is making choices for his future.
- How will his past shoplifting charge affect his choice of careers?
16. Scenario: Ashley has been accepted into the Marine Corps even though she has a past misdemeanor drug charge.
- Explain how her past conviction is going to affect her Military Occupational Specialty and her pay scale.
17. Scenario: When applying for a child care license, the state has a right to screen (do a background check) all of the applicant’s family members. This includes children between the ages of 12-18 years old.
- Do you think this is necessary? Why or why not?