



Law Enforcement Interactions

Content Areas	Cultural Perspectives Rights Productive Interactions Roleplays Trust
Audience	Everyone
# Modules	1 Total
Instructional Time	:90 Minutes Total
Format	Video Lectures Group Activity Discussion Questions
Availability	DVD Online



Help to

Bridge the Gap



“Police and the public hold sharply different views about key aspects of policing as well as on some major policy issues facing the country.”

-Behind the Badge by Pew Research

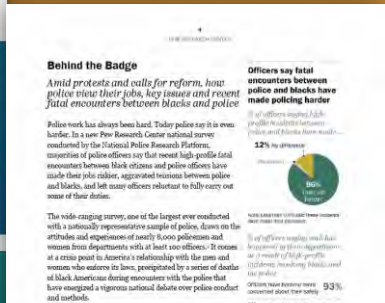
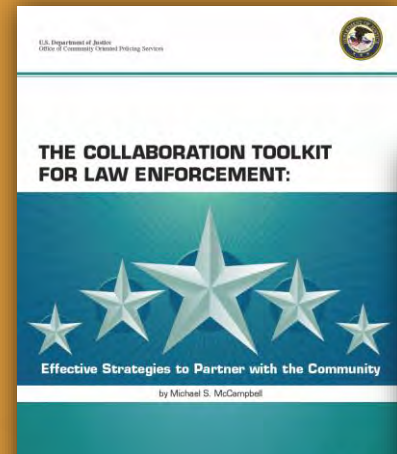
An outreach resource for departments, schools, and community groups.



Ways to

Use the Product

- Department Outreach/PR
- Website Embed or Live Class
- Community Organizations
- High Schools & Youth Groups
- Adult Continuing Education
- Offender Populations



Filming the Interaction

- Rule** → You can film an officer doing his job in public
- Reality** → May cause needless conflict with the officer
- Best Tactic** → Only film if actual misconduct happens



Details On The

Video Lecture



Cultural Context	The breakdown of trust between law enforcement & citizens over time.
Perspectives	Understanding the perspectives of both law enforcement & citizens.
Constitutional Rights	An overview of rights and protections, and how to properly use them.
De-Escalation	How to have a safe, productive interaction.
Power Dynamics	What to do when faced with authority.
Roleplays	Traffic stop, man on the street, and at home scenarios.
Public Gatherings	How to conduct yourself during protests, rallies etc.
Building Trust	Creating healthy relationships for community success.
Taking Positive Action	How to get involved in your local community.

90 Minutes of Instruction in Total



Step-by-Step

Class Session

Law Enforcement Interactions
Facilitator Prep Guide
IMPORTANT NOTE:
• This book is large. As you facilitate discussion, students may not be able to read it. Your job is to "read with the student" and read for those that are struggling to read. Listen closely to any questions and help students think through various points of view.
• Change repeated BOTH individual and anecdotal responses. Law enforcement and citizens must BOTH admit mistakes and actively listen to one another. Don't take the word "development" as a sign of an excuse, but use as an opportunity to learn.
• The student needs to be fair, but not all will agree.

1. Introduction to the Lesson
Today we are going to learn about how to interact with law enforcement. We'll talk about current events.
We'll talk about your rights.
We'll talk about how to interact, and how to appreciate law enforcement.
We'll talk about some specific types of interactions and practice what we've learned. Lastly, we'll talk about how to begin building trust between...

The Lesson Presentation
1. Introduction to the Lesson (Continued)
Historical Context
Law enforcement has existed in one form or another almost as long as civilization. Laws create a stable framework for society and they must be enforced by some governing body (state troopers, local police, etc.). Historically, conflict between law enforcement and citizens occurs when citizens feel like law enforcement overreaches or abuses their power, or when law enforcement feels like they or the community is in danger.
Interact with law enforcement. Unfortunately, most people only interact with law enforcement when they are being pulled over for speeding or being arrested. Because police are often the only people who interact with citizens, it can be hard to see them in any other light. Most people can cause citizens to be rude or defensive, which can cause citizens to be rude or defensive. Citizens must know the basics of having a neutral (or positive) encounter with law enforcement. Everyone should work to understand the situation from both sides, as if humanity.
If you are a police officer at some point in your life, it's a good idea to know your rights (staying calm, cool and collected). It's also a good idea to take some time to address the relationship between law enforcement and citizens as part of the problem.
Check law enforcement officers are on your side! Why or why not?!!
POLICE OFFICERS: Listen and address the situation from both sides, as if humanity. It's a good idea to take some time to address the relationship between law enforcement and citizens as part of the problem.
ask for "take-aways," using points on page 6!
so Part 1
1. If you have negative feelings towards law enforcement, how might you re-structure your thoughts about them to be positive?
2. If you have positive feelings towards law enforcement, how might you re-structure your thoughts about them to be positive?
Potential responses to question 1: (responses will vary)
• Law enforcement protects us.
• Law enforcement can help you if you're lost or need to file an alert.
• You should be respectful and polite to law enforcement.
• The majority of law enforcement do their jobs well, we just don't hear about the good stuff.
Potential responses to question 2: (responses will vary)
• Meet the officers in my community and get to know them.
• Join groups that are already working with law enforcement to repair or improve the relationship.
• Advise your community's National Night Out, or help plan it if there isn't one already.
• Provide understanding, patience, and humility on all sides.

5. Quiz (Grade during activity, then review/return. Comment on optional essays)
7. Activity
Description of the activity: Students will pair up into groups of two and work through the following scenarios. They will be able to take on the role of Law Enforcement Officer and the role of Citizen. Partners should take turns portraying each role.

Citizen Perspective
"They're out to get me."
"They assume the worst."
"I don't want to get into a conflict."
"I'm just minding my own business."

90- Minute Class Flow

:05	Introduction
:10	Video Segment 1
:10	Discussion Questions
:10	Video Segment 2
:10	Discussion Questions
:10	Quiz
:30	Activity
:05	Transitions

Anyone Can Facilitate



Piloted & Tested

Development Contributors



Police Dept.
Officer Training
Division

NAACP
Local Unit
President



Academic
& Popular
Press

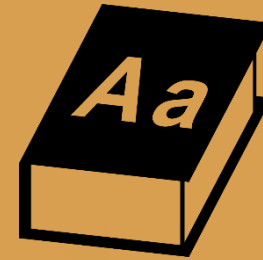
General
Practice
Attorney

Goals for Instruction



All Topics
at a
7th Grade
Level

Vocabulary



Basic Process

Take-Aways





Anyone Can Teach With Step-by-Step Facilitation

Law Enforcement Interactions

Facilitator Prep Guide

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- This topic is high. As you facilitate discussion, also serve as a guide to avoid any "live with the silence" and wait for those brave enough to talk. Labels serve to help questions and help people think through various points of view.
- Change requires BOTH individual and community response. Law enforcement and citizens must BOTH learn, understand and actively listen to one another. Trust takes time and demonstrated action, but we are often impatient.
- The content needs to be fair, but not all will agree.

Unit Description:

Interacting with law enforcement can be tense and stressful. This stress and discomfort can be reduced if the citizen is aware of his or her rights and knows appropriate responses. The goal is to have a historical, safe interaction with an officer.

This unit addresses topics related to:

- Current events faced in our society.
- Your constitutional rights.
- Types of interactions with law enforcement.
- Ways to respectfully engage in community efforts to build trust between citizens and law enforcement.

Additional Included Resources:

- National Night Out: <http://nighout.org/>
- Peace-Behind the Badge (PBDF): From the Peace Research Center. This detailed report investigates how police view their jobs, key issues and recent local encounters between citizens and police. It also provides and calls for reform.
- USDOJ - Collaborative Toolkit for Law Enforcement (CPCL): A resource detailing practical information to help law enforcement build positive relationships with community stakeholders and create a successful collaboration.

For an additional resource visit: <http://www.pdffind.com/>

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Page 1

1. Introduction to the Lesson

Today we are going to learn about how to interact with law enforcement. We'll talk about current events. We'll talk about your rights in an interaction, and how to appropriately use them. We'll talk about some specific types of interactions and practice what we've learned. Lastly, we'll talk about how to begin building trust between law enforcement and citizens in your community.

We'll watch video lectures, have discussions, and complete a worksheet activity.

Current Events

Unfortunately, there is a breakdown of trust between law enforcement and citizens in many communities. A national debate requires every local there is possible police outreach (whether warranted or not). Many people feel like police officers are biased in prejudice against African Americans and minorities (whether true or not). In turn, law enforcement feel they cannot do what it takes to protect their communities. Officer morale is low, and they are burned out. Like most people, they just want to get home safely to their families at night. A shift towards accountability is evident on the street and in the courtroom. Police officers are not the bad guys, but many situations still develop into the streets. Police react to force when they may not be needed. Citizens need to use law enforcement in ways that contribute to education. Trust takes time and demonstrated action, but we are often impatient.

Source: <http://www.pdffind.com/>

2. Show Video Part 1 (After, ask for "take-aways," using points on page 6)

3. Discussion Questions Video Part 1

1. When you think about your personal feelings regarding law enforcement, would you characterize your feelings as positive or negative? Why?

Potential responses to question 1: (answers may vary)

- Positive: Officers keep neighborhoods safe, they help reduce crime, and they promote the peace.
- Example: An officer helped me recover my stolen car.
- Negative: Officers represent a broken system, they are unnecessarily assaultive, and they are tough to work with.
- Ex: An officer treated me with disrespect or violated my rights.

2. If you have negative feelings towards law enforcement, how might you re-evaluate your thoughts about them to be positive?

Potential responses to question 2: (responses will vary)

- For instance, if you said, "I think all police officers are corrupt and out to get me," you could rethink that as saying, "If I say all police officers are corrupt, that's just as bad as an officer saying all citizens are going to be arrested. The reality is that we have some bad cops, most officers are good citizens and are just trying to do their job."

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The Lesson Presentation

1. Introduction to the Lesson (Continued)

Historical Context

Law enforcement has existed in one form or another almost as long as civilization. Laws create a state framework for society and they must be enforced by each governing body (state troopers, local police, etc.). Historically, conflict between law enforcement and citizens occurs when citizens feel the law enforcement overreacts or abuses their power or when law enforcement feels like they or the community is in danger.

Social Context

In some parts of our lives, we are likely to interact with law enforcement. Unfortunately, most people only interact with law enforcement in a negative context, like getting pulled over for speeding or being arrested. Because police are usually acting in an enforcement capacity when they interact with citizens, it can be hard to see them in any other light. This perception, coupled with the national news cycle can cause citizens to be suspicious, which can turn a friendly or neutral encounter into a hostile or adversarial one. Citizens must know the basics of having a neutral (or positive) encounter with a law enforcement officer. What's more, everyone should work to understand the situation from both sides, as some good intentions, and have a dose of humility.

Personal Context

Because you are likely to interact with a police officer at some point in your life, it's a good idea to know your rights and how to properly exercise them while staying calm, cool and collected. It's also a good idea to take some time and think about how you can be part of the solution in addressing tension between law enforcement and citizens, instead of adding to the address or being part of the problem.

DEBATE: The First Video Ask - Do you think law enforcement officers act on some side? Why or why not?

Send a few minutes discussing how our POLICE OFFICER beliefs and attitudes may impact how we think and act in the "heat of the moment." Rubinate that there is a lot of baggage that BOTH citizens and officers bring into the interaction, and that STAFFING, CALIBER, COOL, and COLLECTED is the key to success.

2. Show Video Part 2 (After, ask for "take-aways," using points on page 6)

3. Discussion Questions Video Part 2

3. Think about your right to remain silent. Why is it a good idea to exercise that right, even if you're not being arrested or detained by an officer?

Potential responses to question 3: (answers may vary)

- Can keep me from shouting off to officer.
- Can keep me from saying too much or saying something incriminating.
- If I can't say anything nice, I shouldn't say anything at all.
- If it's a right given to me in the Constitution I should use it!

4. What do you think that law enforcement understood or could see from your point of view? Explain this in a calm, helpful way.

Potential responses to question 4: (answers may vary)

- Officers assume I've done something wrong, it's not a misunderstanding, it's a interrogation and I should just.
- My experience (or those of friends) are going to make me feel a certain way about all police.
- Law enforcement has a lot of power, and they must also work to de-escalate situations.
- Officers your departments would go a long way by admitting what they've made a mistake.

5. What do you think that law enforcement with you understood or could see from your point of view? Explain this in a calm, helpful way.

Potential responses to question 5: (answers may vary)

- Citizens assume that law enforcement are not on their side, even when they are.
- Police departments are actively training officers on how to better interact with citizens and de-escalate situations.
- Officers have to make quick decisions based on limited information and they sometimes make mistakes.
- Relationships build trust, and it takes time and effort on both sides.

4. Show Video Part 2 (After, ask for "take-aways," using points on page 6)

5. Discussion Questions Video Part 2

1. Think about the role you just watched. What do you think are some of the important things to do when interacting with law enforcement?

Potential responses to question 1: (responses will vary)

- Stay calm.
- Be respectful.
- Stay in control of your body and mind. Act slowly and deliberately at all times.
- Be mindful of your rights and how to exercise them.

2. Why do you think it's not a good idea to argue a speeding or other kind of traffic ticket?

Potential responses to question 2: (responses will vary)

- Arguing probably isn't going to get you out of it.
- Arguing might get you more tickets.
- An officer might be inclined to be lenient if you are polite and respectful.
- Officers have a lot of power to issue tickets and if you argue, you're engaging in a power struggle.

3. Let's talk about the stop and frisk scenario. Even though it might violate your rights, why should you submit to a search and not fight it?

Potential responses to question 3: (responses will vary)

- Fighting a police officer will almost always escalate the situation.
- Fighting an officer may give them reason to use force, which could cause you harm.
- Fighting the search will not make you more likely to win your rights to be free from unreasonable searches.
- While difficult, staying calm will help and the instructor leader, at which point you can seek legal help.

4. Why is it so important to choose your words wisely?

Potential responses to question 4: (responses will vary)

- If I get caught with them, and they're doing something illegal, I could be in trouble too.
- Good friends will help me stay strong.
- I can trust them to not have contradicted material in their cars or homes, if I'm staying with them or following their car.

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5. Discussion Questions Video Part 2

6. How are some ways that you could be a positive influence when it comes to repairing the relationship between citizens and law enforcement?

Potential responses to question 6: (responses will vary)

- Meet the officers in my community and get to know them.
- Join groups that are already working with law enforcement to repair or improve the relationship.
- Attend your community's National Night Out or other events if there isn't one already.
- Promote understanding, justice, and fairness of all sides.

6. Quiz (Grade during activity, then review/return. Comment on optional essays)


7. Activity

Description of the activity: Students will pair up into groups of two and work through the following scenarios. There are two roles in each scenario: the role of Law Enforcement Officer and the role of Citizen. Partners should take turns performing each role.

The goal is to make sure that students understand how to exercise their rights while staying calm, cool, and collected. After completing each scenario they should work through the "debrief" section at the bottom of each sheet. Each page should take about 10-15 minutes to work through.

Directions:

- Pair up with another student.
- You will work together to role play through four scenarios. You should get up and act out, but DO NOT stage the other person.
- There are two roles: Officer and Citizen.
- Each student should be the Officer leader and Citizen twice.
- The student portraying the Officer will read the scenario out loud to the other student. The student portraying the Citizen will then read the "Instructions for Officer" section to themselves (not out loud).
- The student will then act out the scenario as described, using what they know from the video.
- After acting out the scenario, the students should work through the debrief section to review the best practices for interacting with law enforcement. (3 mins)
- After all roleplaying is complete, spend some time discussing and debriefing with the class. Highlight that after you're interacting with a law enforcement officer, your job is to ensure the officer's mission was good. You need to know your rights, and make it through the interaction safely. Then, if there is a problem or concern, take action after it's over.



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To run the course, you'll also need...

- TV or projector/speakers
- Internet or DVD player
- Access to a photocopier
- Pencils or pens
- Tables and chairs





LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERACTIONS
CERTIFICATION

IS HEREBY CONFERRED UPON

BY

INSTRUCTOR _____ DATE _____

Ryan Jacobs
CEO, ACCELERON LEARNING

Optional

Certification