

8-28-13

12/18/13

# CHAPTER 2 REALITY CHECK

## Who Is Responsible for a Crime?

### WRITING ACTIVITY

Read this newspaper story.  
Read each item below. Write your answers in complete sentences.

#### MOTHER ANGRY THAT MURDERER GOES FREE

<p>"There is no justice!" cried Joyce E. The man charged with stabbing her son to death was found innocent by reason of insanity. His law-</p>	<p>yer argued the suspect's brain had been damaged by an accident so he could neither remember the attack nor know right from wrong. The</p>	<p>judge ordered a test by a psychologist who found the man to be a danger neither to himself nor to society. He was set free.</p>
--	--	--

1. There are two sides to this story. Side 1 believes that some mentally ill people do not know right from wrong and should not be punished. Do you agree or disagree? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Side 2 believes that people should always be punished if they commit a crime. Do you agree or disagree? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The law should treat all people exactly the same. Do you agree or disagree? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Does it matter whether or not a person understood that he or she was committing a crime? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How could the court better decide if someone is mentally ill? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ACTIVITY

Form a small group of 3-6 people. Each person in your group should contribute. Before you begin, decide what each person's job will be in the group. If time allows, present your group's work to the class.

- Make a list of reasons why side 1 seems right. (One person will be the writer for the group. Everyone must give a reason.)
- Make a list of reasons why side 2 seems right.
- Now divide the group into two smaller teams; get together with those who support the same side as you. Have a debate with both side taking turns to present their argument.

~~1/2/2013~~

## CHAPTER 2 SELF-CHECK

### Who Is Responsible for a Crime?

Read each statement below and decide whether it is fact or opinion. If the statement is fact, write F on the line. Write O if the statement is opinion. If it is an opinion, explain whether or not you agree.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. It is a good idea to keep a gun at home in case someone tries to break in and rob you.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Juveniles should not be tried in adult court.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The law says that a person must know the difference between right and wrong in order to be convicted of a crime.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Newspapers should be able to print the names of juveniles who commit a crime.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. A person must have intent to commit a crime.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. In some states, parents or guardians are held responsible for gun injuries caused by their children.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A person may not use more force than is needed to defend life or property.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The law is too easy toward children who commit major crimes.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The law says that people are expected to know the laws.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Passing counterfeit money is less serious than stealing money.  
\_\_\_\_\_

8-28-13

Name/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### News Article Summary

Who wrote the article: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the Article: \_\_\_\_\_

When did the events in the article occur?

Where did the events occur?

List all that are named in the article with their titles if given:

What was the article about?

Why is this article important?

What did you learn from the article?