

Using Word Searches to Supplement Your Law Day Lesson

Word searches are a fun activity for students and something you can leave with them to complete and take home to share with their parents after your visit. You can go over the words with the students and ask them if they know what the words mean. This activity involves the students in the lesson instead of you lecturing to them about legal terms. Their responses create discussion opportunities in which you can clarify any misperceptions students have and you can ask questions to help them and their classmates think a bit more about their responses.

Use the Word Searches as an Introduction to Set-up the Lesson or as a Wrap-up Activity

A word search can be an opening introduction to your lesson to cover some key terms you will be discussing or the word searches can be used as a follow-up to check for comprehension and to see if the students have unresolved questions about the lesson you just presented.

An Alternate Idea

An alternative way to use the word search is to have the students write the words they will be searching for based on the definitions you give. To do this, you would give the students the word search grid but the words they are to find would not be listed (You would have determined the words when you made the puzzle or, if you use one of the puzzles on our Web site, just white out the words below the puzzle before copying it for the students.). For example, if one of the words in your word search is “court,” you would ask the students something like, “Can anyone tell me the name of the building where judges work?” Or you might ask for the name of the building where judges hold trials. You may get different responses, providing opportunities to engage in more discussion with the students. When you get the answer to your question, you can ask if anyone would volunteer to spell the word. Students can spell the words from their seats and

you can write them on the board or you could have the students come to the board to write the words for everyone to see. You would then ask the students to write the words on their papers and explain that after you leave the classroom they can find all of the words you talked about and take the papers home to share with their families.

Word Search Puzzles from the Pennsylvania Bar Association

Visit the PBA Law Day Web site for word search handouts that you can print and use with various grade levels. Or, use the links provided below to create your own word searches.

Make Your Own Word Search Puzzle

Below are three Web sites you can use to create word search puzzles to use with some of the vocabulary words you are using in your lesson. The puzzles allow you to tailor the difficulty level of your word search to match with the grade level you are visiting.

- <http://www.superkids.com/aweb/tools/words/search/>
- <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>
- http://www.edcreate.com/wordsearch/wordsearch_create.php

How to Get Help

You may access all of the lessons, information and resources in this guide through our Law Day Web site: www.pabar.org/lre.asp

If you have questions or would like to request the materials by sending an e-mail or leaving a phone message, please contact Susan Etter, PBA Education and Special Projects Coordinator.

E-mail: susan.etter@pabar.org

Phone: 800-932-0311, ext. 2256

The PBA Law Day program is organized by the PBA Law-Related Education Committee and is funded by the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation.