

## Using Word Searches to Supplement your Law Day Lesson

This is 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. The benefits are that this involves the students in the lesson instead of you lecturing to them about legal terms, and their responses create discussion opportunities where you can clarify any misperceptions they have and ask questions to help them and their classmates think a bit more about their responses.

### Use the word finds as an introduction to set-up the lesson or as a wrap-up activity

The puzzles can be an opening introduction to your lesson to cover some key terms you will be discussing or it 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 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 they hold trials. You may get different responses, which again, provide opportunities to engage with the students. When you get the answer, you can ask if anyone would volunteer to spell the word. Students can spell it from their seat and you can write it on the board or you could have the student come to the board to write the word for everyone to see. You would ask the students to write the word on their paper and explain that after you leave they can find all of the words you talked about and take the paper home to share with their family.

### Make your own word search puzzle

Below are three 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.edcreate.com/wordsearch/wordsearch\\_create.php](http://www.edcreate.com/wordsearch/wordsearch_create.php)
- ☐ <http://www.superkids.com/aweb/tools/words/search/>
- ☐ <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>

Word Search puzzles are available on the Pennsylvania Bar Association web site:  
[www.pabar.org/lre.asp](http://www.pabar.org/lre.asp) select “Law Day”