**Introduction to Criminal Justice**

Criminal Justice Project

Students will be required to complete a criminal justice project.

The **objectives of the criminal project** are:

* explore criminal justice issues in more depth
* research facts and statistics in various criminal justice areas
* apply the course material to various situations

The project will be completed in stages.

There are **four topics available.** Each topic requires incorporation and development of course material.

Additional academic resources may be necessary. Proper citation is required for additional sources used (refer to the various citation sources available, APA is recommended for criminal justice students). Wikipedia and other non-academic sources (magazines, websites with no governing body or standards, etc...) **are not acceptable.**

**Personal resources**, such as interviews, criminal justice site visits and observations (police agencies, courtroom observations, correctional facility tours) **are acceptable and encouraged**. This must be approved by the instructor.

Each project **allows for flexibility and creativity** in terms of project presentation. Use the Topic Rubrics as a guide for required elements.

Consult with the instructor for specific ideas.

**Criminal Justice Project: Submission Details**

**Part 1**

Choose a Topic

Outline Tasks to Be Completed

Develop a Project Timeline

Submit Questions/Concerns

**Part 2**

Report on Progress

Report Changes

Brief summary of work completed thus far

**Part 3**

Complete Project Submission

* Refer to Criminal Justice Project Rubrics for Detailed Requirements on each Submission

**Criminal Justice Project  
Topic Options**

**Topic 1: Campaign Headquarters**

You are responsible for preparing campaign material for a political candidate. The campaign material will **specifically address criminal justice issues.**

The candidate has requested that at least the following be included:

* Popular Myths of Crime and Criminals
* Facts to Clarify the Popular Myths and Common Misperceptions about Crime and Criminal Justice
* Clearly express the candidate’s Political Platform on at least 4 criminal justice issues (review issues from the areas of police, courts, and corrections)
* Support for each issue must be included
* From the political platform, choose at least 2 issues to prepare counter arguments for an upcoming debate

A wide variety of mechanisms should be used to prepare the materials. Items such as brochures, booklets, fliers, campaign speeches, transcript of a radio/television ad, are all examples that can be used. Options are open and varied. Discuss options with your instructor.

Statistics and research in the area of criminal justice should be included from the course material (or other academic sources) as support and justification for the various political topics.

**Topic 2: A Day in the Life of the Chief**

You are responsible for producing a reality show that documents the day in a life of the local Chief of Police. Your crew follows the Chief as he performs various job-related functions.

* Develop a Biography of the Chief
* Develop a profile of the local community

-demographics

-local concerns relating to the police and crime

(at least three local issues)

* Include a radio show transcript

-include a transcript of the a radio appearance in which the Chief received calls from citizens and his responses (the citizens are calling with concerns related to crime and the Chief responds to their concerns)

* Document other activities/situations the Chief encounters in one week-at the Department and in the community

**Topic 3: Judge the Court: An Analysis of Court**

You are charged with the responsibility of organizing a panel of individuals to discuss and prepare solutions for key court issues.

* Prepare material that **advertises the purpose and goals of the panel discussion.** This will **inform the public of the upcoming panel and provide background information on the issues**

-Choose 5 individuals to participate in the panel (i.e. a local judge, a university professor, jail commander, etc..)

-Participants you select should have a specific contributory value

-Discuss why you selected each participant

-Identify at least three key court issues that must be addressed

-Provide details/discussion/main points on each issue to provide informative material to the public and panelists

Potential Issues to Discuss

* how different areas of the criminal justice system affects the courts
* common public misconceptions of the courts
* profile of the court (actors, structure and basic functioning) and issues associated with each of these
* new technology available to integrate into the court system and how might this address any of the court issues you have defined
* issues of bail and sentencing

**Topic 4:** **Show Me the Money: A Proposal for Corrections Reform**

You are applying for 500 million in grant money for your state to implement reform in the area of corrections.

* Propose and justify the need for correctional reform
* Develop a proposal (and justify) the allocation of the 500 million dollars
  + Justification for the needed reforms should include course material and additional support as required
* Include a brief outline of the design plan
* Conclude with a final statement that will persuade the committee to award you the grant