



Bridging the Thin Blue Line

Lesson 4

Lesson Plan

LessonPlanLesson4

Bridging the Thin Blue Line: Lesson 4 Lesson Plan

Objective: To provide students with an understanding of the various challenges, policies, and perceptions related to modern policing.

Lesson Plan Part A:

LessonPlanLesson4

1. Introduction (10 mins)

Brief overview of the topics: Police Pursuits, Understaffing in Police Departments, Stop and Frisk, Public Perception of Policing, and the Psychological Impact on Officers.

2. Police Pursuits (15 mins)

- Presentation on the nuances and complexities of police pursuits.
- Video clip: Real-life police chase and its consequences.
- Group discussion: Risks vs. benefits of high-speed chases.

3. The Understaffing Epidemic (15 mins)

- Overview of the challenges due to understaffing.
- Real-life testimony: A police officer sharing experiences about the effects of understaffing.
- Group activity: Brainstorming solutions to address understaffing.

4. Stop and Frisk: A Contested Strategy (15 mins)

- Explanation of the 'Stop and Frisk' policy.
- Video clip: Stop and frisk in action.
- Group discussion: Balancing proactive policing and protecting civil rights.

5. Policing in the Age of Opposition (15 mins)

- Overview of the challenges faced by police due to opposition.
- Small group activity: Debate on the pros and cons of public criticism.

6. The Psychological Impact on Officers (15 mins)

- Presentation on the stresses and mental health issues faced by officers.
- Group discussion: Ways to support officers' mental well-being.

7. Community Policing: Bridging the Gap (15 mins)

- Explanation of the principles of community policing.
- Video clip: Successful community policing initiatives.
- Group activity: Role-play on police-community interactions.

8. The Media's Role in Shaping Perceptions (15 mins)

- Discussion on media representation of police.
- Group activity: Analyzing different news reports on the same incident to identify biases.

LessonPlanLesson4

9. Understanding Consent Decrees and Role of Police Unions (15 mins)

- Presentation on consent decrees and their implications.
- Overview of the role of police unions.
- Group discussion: The benefits and challenges posed by consent decrees and unions.

10. Conclusion and Reflection (10 mins)

- Summarize key points from the lesson.
- Open floor for questions and reflections.

11. Homework/Extended Activity:

Students to research and write a short essay on a policing policy or challenge not covered in the lesson.

Assessment:

- Participation in group discussions and activities.
- Reflections and questions during the conclusion.
- Homework essay on a relevant topic.

Lesson Plan: Part B

Objective: To understand the complexities and challenges of modern policing, as well as the broader implications for society and the communities they serve.

I. Introduction (15 minutes)

- Brief overview of the evolution of policing
- Importance of understanding the multifaceted nature of contemporary law enforcement challenges

II. Police Pursuits (20 minutes)

Activity: Watch a short video clip of a real-life police pursuit.

- Discuss the pros and cons of police pursuits
- Debate the implications of restrictive pursuit policies
- Role-play: Two scenarios where a decision to pursue (or not) must be made

III. Understaffing Epidemic (20 minutes)

Activity: Case study of a city dealing with understaffing.

- Analyze the reasons for the shortage
- Explore the direct consequences of understaffing
- Brainstorm potential solutions and interventions

IV. Stop and Frisk Policy (20 minutes)

Activity: Group debate on the merits and challenges of 'stop and frisk'.

- Understand the history and intent behind the policy
- Discuss the arguments for and against the policy
- Explore alternative approaches to proactive policing

V. Psychological Impact on Officers (20 minutes)

Activity: Watch a short documentary or interview with an officer discussing mental health.

LessonPlanLesson4

- Delve into the various stressors that impact officer mental health
- Discuss the importance of support structures
- Brainstorm ways to promote mental well-being within police departments

VI. Community Policing (20 minutes)

Activity: Role-playing a community-policing scenario.

- Discuss the principles and goals of community policing
- Explore successful examples of community policing
- Brainstorm ideas to promote community-police collaborations in their own communities

VII. The Media's Role (20 minutes)

Activity: Analyze two contrasting media reports on a single police incident.

- Debate the influence of media portrayal on public perception
- Discuss the consequences of sensationalism and lack of context
- Explore ways in which the media could foster a more constructive dialogue about policing

VIII. Consent Decrees (15 minutes)

Activity: Case study analysis of a city under a consent decree.

LessonPlanLesson4

- Understand the reasons for and implications of consent decrees
- Debate their effectiveness in promoting police reform
- Discuss the challenges faced by departments under consent decrees

IX. The Role of Police Unions (15 minutes)

Activity: Analysis of a police union.

- Discuss the objectives and functions of police unions
- Explore the positive and negative aspects of union advocacy
- Debate the role of unions in shaping modern policing

X. Conclusion and Assignments (15 minutes)

LessonPlanLesson4

- Recap key points from the lesson
- Assignments:
 1. **Research Paper:** Choose one topic from the lesson and write a 3-5 page research paper. Provide a balanced overview, incorporating multiple perspectives.
 2. **Community Interview:** Interview a local police officer or community leader about one of the topics discussed. Write a summary of the conversation, including insights gained.
 3. **Media Analysis:** Over one week, track and analyze media reports related to policing. Identify patterns, biases, and suggest ways for more balanced reporting.