

CHAPTER 6 REALITY CHECK

How Laws Work

WRITING ACTIVITIES

Read each item below.
Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. In many societies, the accused person is considered guilty unless evidence proves otherwise. Why do you think it is the reverse in this country? _____

2. Explain how the prosecution and the defense work against each other. _____

3. Do you think that the principle of an eye for an eye should apply to every crime or to all crimes except homicide? Why? _____

4. Why is the scales of justice a good symbol to represent fairness in our criminal justice system? _____

5. Why does justice have to be blind? _____

COOPERATIVE 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.

Society often demands that a new law be written. One example is people demanding tougher laws against drunk drivers. Think of an important issue that needs attention in your school or community or a school rule that already exists but needs to be changed.

- Design an idea for a rule or law the group feels is needed.
- Decide what action you could actually take to get such a rule or law passed. You might have to do research, convince people to support it, or write to a lawmaker.
- Take the necessary steps to take to make your idea become a reality.
- Exchange idea plans with another group. Give them helpful suggestions, and also consider theirs.