



#8975

RULES OF THE GAME

Grade Levels: 8-13+

30 minutes

VIDEO RESOURCES SOFTWARE 1999

DESCRIPTION

The cases of a wrongfully convicted man and two drug dealers intersect as the due process rights of all three find protection under the fifth amendment of the constitution. After the drama, a brief narration reviews this freedom: that due process under the law guarantees freedom of any individual against unfair treatment by the government.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Civics

- ◆ Standard: Understands the sources, purposes, and functions of law, and the importance of the rule of law for the protection of individual rights and the common good
 - Benchmark: Knows alternative ideas about the purposes and functions of law
- ◆ Standard: Understands the central ideas of American constitutional government and how this form of government has shaped the character of American society
 - Benchmark: Knows the major ideas about republican government that influenced the development of the United States Constitution

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To define *due process*.
2. To identify what the U.S. Constitution says about due process.
3. To explore what happens when the rights of individuals conflict with the rights of society.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Rules of the Game is one of fifteen 30-minute episodes found in the *On Common Ground* series. *On Common Ground* is a different and exciting way to learn about U.S. history and government. Each episode includes an action-filled story and a short documentary segment. The stories show the “common ground”—the common values that people in the United States share.



VOCABULARY

1. acquits
2. amendment
3. ATM
4. deprive
5. due process
6. travesty

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Discuss the following:
 - a. What is a *rule*?
 - b. Where do you find rules?
 - c. What is the purpose of rules?
 - d. What is a *game*?
 - e. What do games and government have in common?
 - f. When should government not be involved in people's lives?
 - g. Why is it important for government to act in ways that are fair and reasonable for all people?
2. Think about the series title, *On Common Ground*, and the video title, *Rules of the Game*. What feelings and ideas do the titles provoke? Share these with the class.
3. Discuss the vocabulary words utilized in the video.



AFTER SHOWING

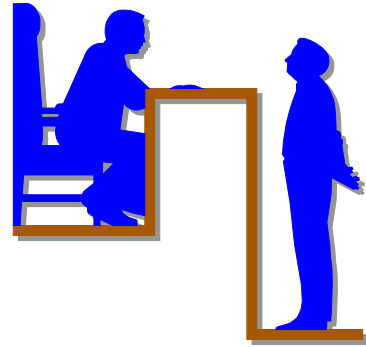
Discussion Items and Questions

1. Review the following:
 - a. What does *due process of law* mean?
 - b. How are the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments different?
 - c. What is *substantive due process*?
 - d. What is *procedural due process*?
 - e. What individual freedoms does due process give you?
 - f. How does due process protect people accused of breaking the law?
 - g. How have due process clauses affected Supreme Court rulings?
2. Discuss what life might be like without due process of law.

Applications and Activities

1. Collect newspaper or news magazine articles about a law being challenged in court because some people feel it is unfair. Discuss the decisions you would make about the law and why if you were the judge.
2. Lead a class discussion on the following questions:
 - a. Do you think that the rules of due process are too easy on people suspected of committing a crime? In what way?
 - b. How would you change the process?

- c. Imagine that you were accused of a crime you didn't commit. How would you feel about due process then?
3. Read the following situation and then answer the questions.
 - a. George stabbed another man in a fight. George asked Janet to testify at his trial. He asked her to say that he was with her when the stabbing occurred, which is not true. George is Janet's good friend, and she wants to help him.
 - b. What should Janet do?
 - c. Give reasons for your choice.
 - d. Write one more solution.
 - e. Discuss choices with the class.



RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Bill of Rights #3438
- The Bill of Rights Today: The 4th Amendment #3010

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES**

<http://majoritywhip.house.gov/constitution/default.asp>

Site dedicated to teach students about the constitution. Includes the text of the Constitution, Amendments, a quiz and more.

- **THE POLITICAL RESOURCE PAGE**

http://members.tripod.com/bcq/fifth_amendment.html

Includes information on the Fifth Amendment, relevant court cases, references, articles and more.

- **BEN'S GUIDE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT: GRADES 9-12**

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/index.html>

Includes topics such as historical documents, how laws are made, national versus state government, branches of government and more.