

SESSION 1 – LAW, MORALITY, AND JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION

Before we begin to discuss victims, offenders and survivors, we are going to look at the law and the administration of law. We are going to discuss;

- What are "good" laws? What standards should we use to determine whether a law is "good"?
- How do laws protect society and promote public welfare?
- Laws change over time. Are there laws which have been unethical in the past? How has change happened?
- How can we establish courts of justice which are fair to victims and offenders?

OUTLINE

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| 1. Introduction to Course | (5 min) |
| 2. Presentation by Facilitator
(Discussion of Homework) | (20 min.) |
| 3. Discussion Group | (30 min.) |
| 4. Summary by Facilitator | (5 min.) |
| 5. Conclusion and Message of Hope
(Next week assignments and Reading Comprehension Techniques) | (15 min.) |

Tutoring session



OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Examine the overlap between law and morality
- Define the purpose of law and justice
- Describe how your value systems and the law intersect.
- Identify where law and Justice proceedings have helped you.
- Identify where you have been in conflict with the law and why.

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS

- How can we create laws which are just, moral and effective while taking into account all perspectives?
- We need to balance the need to protect society with the rights of individuals. Sometimes minority groups or individuals have values that aren't the same as the larger society. How can we make laws that accommodate for the needs of everyone?
- How can we create fair systems in the courtroom that protect victims and the rights of offenders?
- What processes should we use to make and enforce fair laws?
- Can we make laws that help people to "stay out of trouble" in the first place?
- What do you think is the best way to enforce laws and control "criminals"?



Think About It

- Our legal systems are created by humans who have human frailties. How can we still pursue justice?
- How do we come to terms with the injustices that were done to us? How do I avoid anger, hopelessness and depression?
- Describe how your value system brought you into conflict with the law. Describe your relationship with the law? Why did this happen?
- Do my moral values conflict with the law?
- How did my actions affect others or society?
- How did I get here? What do I want to get out of this class?



CONCLUSION

1. Summarize what you learned.

- What is the difference between law and morality?
- What is the function of law?
- What makes laws just and effective?
- Can you make the law work for you?

2. Homework

- a) Chose one of the discussion topics listed and write a one page to half page essay. Use full sentences and proper punctuation and grammar. Try to use some of the new vocabulary you learned.
- b) You can also choose an alternative assignment.
- c) Read the articles for the next session and complete the questions for next week.
- d) Meet your tutor, correct homework and writing assignments. Create an outline for your essay. Email your completed homework to your tutor.
- e) You can ask for more readings on this subject from the facilitator if you are interested.