

The Juvenile Justice System

Pre-reading Activity for *Monster*, by Walter Dean Myers

ELACCS8.RI.3: *Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).*

What is juvenile delinquency? What is the Juvenile Justice System? What are traits of a juvenile delinquent? Learn the answer to these questions along with ways to prevent juvenile delinquency by completing the following WebQuest. Knowledge gained will help you better understand the book, which we are about to read, *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge - College and Career Readiness Anchor Standard for Writing #7: *Student will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.*

Introduction

This project will help you to become experts in the Juvenile Justice System and the laws that determine how youth who commit crimes are handled. The main character in the book we will be reading, *Monster*, is considered to be a juvenile delinquent, and is on trial for a crime. As we read the novel, you will have to decide whether he is guilty or innocent and if you think he is being treated fairly.

Group 1 Task – Create a flipbook on juvenile delinquency

Your task is to research the following:

1. What is Juvenile delinquency? What are the traits of a juvenile delinquent?
2. What are causes/factors of juvenile delinquents/crimes?
3. What is the Juvenile Justice System? What is the history of the Juvenile Justice System?
4. How is being tried as a juvenile different than being tried as an adult?

You will have to:

- Collect data and pictures
- Record your findings
- Organize your information
- Create a flipbook or booklet that includes the answers to all four questions

Process

Your job is to research the facts about juvenile delinquency by collecting data on the questions above. Use the Websites included for each question to help you attain the information that is needed. Record the information that you collect on the sheet provided. When you are done thoroughly researching each topic, you will demonstrate understanding by creating a flipbook on juvenile delinquency.

The following are the requirements needed:

- You need a catchy title. Remember who your audience is.
- You must include data on each of the following questions below.
- You must include at least **FIVE** pictures.
- The brochure must be attractive in terms of design, layout and neatness.
- Grammar, capitalization, punctuation and spelling should be correct.
- Be creative!
- Review the grading rubric to see exactly what gets you the highest grade possible.
- Use class time wisely...three days is all the time you have!

Questions that need to be answered:

1. What is Juvenile delinquency?
http://www.justice.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/title9/crm00038.htm
2. What are causes/factors of juvenile delinquents/crimes?
<http://readingcraze.com/index.php/cause-and-solution-of-juvenile-delinquency/>
<http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/factors-leading-bad-juvenile-behavior-3033.html>
3. What is the Juvenile Justice System?
http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=9747&page=154
http://www.practicenotes.org/vol12_no4/overview.htm
4. How is being tried as a juvenile different than being tried as an adult?
<http://criminal.findlaw.com/juvenile-justice/how-do-juvenile-proceedings-differ-from-adult-criminal-proceeding.html>
5. What are steps that can be taken to prevent such crimes?
<http://www.wisegeek.org/what-is-the-solution-to-juvenile-delinquency.htm>
6. What are alternatives to jail for juvenile offenders?
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/08/nyregion/08family.html?_r=0
7. What are the 5th, 6th, and 7th amendments? Put the definition in your own words.
<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/northamerica/after1500/government/billofrights.htm>
8. Can juveniles get the death penalty? When did this change?
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4518051>