

Texas S.B. 30: The Community Safety Education Act Lesson Plan

Learning objectives

Students will:

1. Understand proper interaction with peace officers during traffic stops and other in-person encounters.
2. Identify the role of law enforcement and the responsibilities of peace officers.
3. Effectively and safely assert one's rights in interactions with peace officers.
4. Identify proper behavior for civilians and peace officers during interactions.
5. Understand laws regarding the questioning and possible detention of a civilian by peace officers.
6. Understand how and where to file a complaint against or a compliment on behalf of a peace officer.

TEKS: 113.19 (7th Grade TEKS): 15A-B
113.20 (8th Grade TEKS): 19C
113.44 (Government TEKS): 13A-B

Materials Needed:

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- Accompanying Power Point
- Copies of Student Handout for Video
- Copies of Student Handout: "20 Tips for Interacting with Police Officers During a Traffic Stop"
- Copies of Student Post-Test

Estimated Time:

45-60 Minutes

The Community Safety Education Act was passed in 2017 by the 85th Texas Legislature. It added Sec. 28.012 to the Texas Education Code [TEC], requiring "Instruction on Interaction with Law Enforcement" The State Board of Education adopted Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code [TAC], Sec. 74.39, outlining the new requirement that school districts and charter schools provide instruction to 9th-12th grade students on how to properly interact with peace officers. [TAC Sec. 74.5\(k\)](#) requires school districts to document the completion of this instruction on students' academic achievement records (transcripts).

This lesson plan is intended to fulfill these requirements for student instruction on interaction with peace officers. It does not have to be provided by a peace officer, but the presence and participation of a peace officer is highly recommended. For this reason, some districts have found it effective to conduct the lesson in grade-level assemblies with an officer present. Districts should document the completion of this instruction and make such documentation a part of student transcripts/records.



Teaching Strategy

1. Project the first slide of the accompanying power point presentation. The power point presentation will guide you through the lesson.
2. At the accompanying Power Point slide, click the video link to show the video at [insert link]. Have students complete the notes as they watch the video.
3. At the accompanying slide, distribute copies of “20 Tips for Interacting with Police Officers During a Traffic Stop” and read these with the students.
4. After completing the video and reading the “20 Tips...” page, pause to answer student questions. If possible, have a law enforcement officer present to help answer student questions.
5. Have students complete the Post-Test activity [paper or google?]
6. Review the results with students and answer any further questions that arise.
7. If time allows, consider optional extension activities below.

Optional Extension/Differentiation Activities

Supplemental Videos:

- What to expect in a traffic stop - <https://youtu.be/rcnrzOQlcQ>
- What NOT to do during a traffic stop, TYLA - <https://tyla.org/resource/strength-in-unity/>

Role-Play Activity (see attached handout): Place students into pairs and give each pair a different scenario to role play (it is best to cut up the Role Play Scenarios into strips so that the groups don't know what scenarios the other groups have been assigned). Allow students time to practice with their partner and create their skit. Each group will then take turns acting out their scenario/skit before the class. After each performance, have the class try to guess what the driver did wrong or should have done differently.

For remediation, reteach, or special populations: Have students watch the “Virtual Ride Along” on www.discoverpolicing.org and complete the embedded questions from the website.

Writing Extension: Have students choose one or more video clips from the “Real People, Real Stories” segments on www.discoverpolicing.org and write a reflection piece about the lives of law enforcement officers.

For extension or enrichment - have students create a Public Service Announcement video for teenage drivers regarding how to interact with police officers. Have students research Community Policing efforts. Have students contact a local police officer, interview them, and write a reflection.

Your Name: _____

Texas Community Safety Education Act: Student Video Handout

Instructions: As you watch the video, fill in the blanks.

1. This content is designed specifically to make certain that the _____ factor between law enforcement and citizens is stronger than ever.
2. You will be asked to sign a citation. It is not an admission of guilt. You have _____ days to appeal.
3. Keep your hands visible...if it's dark, turn the over-head light _____.
4. An officer may ask you to roll down the windows for his or her own _____.
5. If you refuse to show your driver's license... the officer CAN / CANNOT (circle one) arrest you.
6. An officer can usually verify you have a _____ once he obtains basic information from you.
7. Nobody wants to be standing 6 inches from the highway with their back to _____.
8. Most of the time, officers look for traffic violations in areas where there have been accidents ...it is about getting people to drive _____.
9. Look at the ticket as a personal recognizance bond. You are signing it to say you will contact the _____ so that you can be released to go on your way.
10. The law says you have to be given at least _____ days to contact the court...at this point you have options you can discuss with the court.
11. If you think the officer acted inappropriately, remember that you can take it to court...if it's about the officers behavior or treatment, please contact that officers employing agency...they have investigators that will contact you...most officers in this state have either in car _____ with audio or body-worn cameras with audio...that will be the beginning point of an investigation...
12. You have the right to deny a consent search of your car...however, if the officer has probable cause to search, they DO / DO NOT (circle one) need consent.
13. List one thing you have learned today:

14. List 3 differences you noticed between the first stop in the video and the second:

- _____
- _____
- _____



TEACHER ANSWER KEY

Texas Community Safety Education Act: Student Video Handout

Instructions: As you watch the video, fill in the blanks.

1. This content is designed specifically to make certain that the **trust** factor between law enforcement and citizens is stronger than ever.
2. You will be asked to sign a citation. It is not an admission of guilt. You have **30** days to appeal.
3. Keep your hands visible...if it's dark, turn the over-head light **on**.
4. An officer may ask you to roll down the windows for his or her own **safety**.
5. If you refuse to show your driver's license...the officer **CAN** arrest you.
6. An officer can usually verify that you have a **license** once he obtains basic information from you.
7. Nobody wants to be standing 6 inches from the highway with their back to **traffic**.
8. Most of the time, officers look for traffic violations in areas where there have been accidentsit is about getting people to drive **safer**.
9. Look at the ticket as a personal recognizance bond. You are signing it to say you will contact the **court** so that you can be released to go on your way.
10. The law says you have to be given at least **10** days to contact the court...at this point you have options you can discuss with the court.
11. If you think the officer acted inappropriately, remember that you can take it to court...if it's about the officers behavior or treatment, please contact that officers employing agency...they have investigators that will contact you...most officers in this state have either in car **cameras** with audio or body-worn cameras with audio...that will be the beginning point of an investigation...
12. You have the right to deny a consent search of your car...however, if the officer has probable cause to search, they **DO NOT** need consent.
13. List one thing you have learned today:

Answers will vary.

14. List 3 differences you noticed between the first stop in the video and the second:

Answers will vary.



20 Tips for Interacting with Police Officers During a Traffic Stop

Adapted from the Texas Young Lawyers Association Resource

<https://tyla.org/resource/strength-in-unity/>

1. Immediately pull over to the right. If possible, pull over in a well-lit area that is immediately available and free from other traffic.
2. Put your vehicle in park, roll down your window and turn off the ignition.
3. If it is nighttime, turn on the interior light.
4. Do not attempt to run/flee the scene.
5. Remain seated and do not attempt to get out of the car.
6. Do not make any sudden movements.
7. Keep your hands where the police can see them. If you must reach for your ID or insurance, inform the officer of what you need to do before moving your hands.
8. Comply with officer's requests for identification and proof of insurance.
9. If you are lawfully carrying a weapon, disclose it to the officer.
10. If an officer gives you a ticket, sign it. It is not an admission of guilt.
11. Do not argue with the officer: Anything you say can and will be held against you.
12. Do not ignore the officer.
13. Answer any questions asked by the officer to the best of your ability.
14. If the officer asks you to get out of the vehicle, immediately comply with the officer's request.
15. Do not touch the officer or reach for the officer's weapon.
16. Do not resist arrest.
17. Confirm with the officer that you are free to go before starting your car and pulling off.
18. If you are arrested, clearly and immediately ask for a lawyer. Repeat your request for a lawyer as many times as necessary.
19. If an officer asks to search your car, you may refuse. However, the officer may still search with Probable Cause.
20. If you feel the officer is exceeding his/her authority or otherwise mistreating you, remember the officer's badge number, write down the details of the incident ASAP, and make a complaint via local law enforcement's non-emergency hotline.

Your Name: _____

Student Assessment & Survey

1. If pulled over, immediately pull over to the right. If possible, pull over in a _____ area that is immediately available and free from other traffic.
 - a. crowded
 - b. well-lit
 - c. shaded
2. Put your vehicle in _____, roll down your window and turn off the ignition.
 - a. park
 - b. reverse
 - c. drive
3. If it is nighttime, turn on the interior _____.
 - a. music
 - b. gps device
 - c. light
4. Do NOT attempt to run/flee the scene.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
5. Remain seated and do NOT attempt to _____.
 - a. remember the officer's badge number
 - b. run or flee the scene
 - c. cooperate
6. Do NOT make any sudden movements.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
7. Keep your hands where the police can see them. If you must reach for your ID or insurance, inform the officer of what you need to do before _____.
 - a. moving your hands
 - b. speaking
 - c. giving your name



8. Comply with officer's requests for identification and proof of _____.
 - a. voter registration
 - b. insurance
 - c. identity

9. If you are lawfully carrying a weapon, _____ it to the officer.
 - a. hide
 - b. show
 - c. disclose (tell)

10. If an officer gives you a ticket, sign it. It _____ an admission of guilt.
 - a. is
 - b. is NOT
 - c. might be

11. Do NOT _____ with the officer: Anything you say can and will be held against you.
 - a. cooperate
 - b. make polite conversation
 - c. argue

12. Do NOT _____ the officer.
 - a. ignore
 - b. speak to
 - c. look at

13. If the officer asks you to get out of the vehicle, immediately _____ with the officer's request.
 - a. comply
 - b. ignore
 - c. question

14. Do NOT touch the officer or reach for the officer's weapon.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

15. Do NOT resist arrest.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

16. Confirm with the officer that you are _____ before starting your car and pulling off.
 - a. innocent
 - b. guilty
 - c. free to go

17. If you are arrested, clearly and immediately ask for a _____. Repeat your request as many times as necessary.
- a. dismissal
 - b. lawyer
 - c. ride home
18. If an officer asks to search your car, you may refuse. However, the officer may still search with _____.
- a. a. probable cause
 - b. b. reasonable doubt
 - c. c. backup
19. If you feel the officer is exceeding his/her authority or otherwise mistreating you, remember the officer's _____, write down the details of the incident ASAP, and make a complaint via local law enforcement's non-emergency hotline.
- a. badge number
 - b. face
 - c. height
20. After this presentation, how prepared do you feel to interact with law enforcement officers in a situation such as a traffic stop?
- a. more prepared than before
 - b. the same...no more and no less prepared than before
 - c. less prepared

What other questions do you have regarding how to interact with peace officers?



TEACHER ANSWER KEY

Student Assessment & Survey

1. If pulled over, immediately pull over to the right. If possible, pull over in a _____ area that is immediately available and free from other traffic.
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 - b. well-lit
 - c. shaded
2. Put your vehicle in _____, roll down your window and turn off the ignition.
 - a. park
 - b. reverse
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3. If it is nighttime, turn on the interior _____.
 - a. music
 - b. gps device
 - c. light
4. Do NOT attempt to run/flee the scene.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
5. Remain seated and do NOT attempt to _____.
 - a. remember the officer's badge number
 - b. get out of the car
 - c. cooperate
6. Do NOT make any sudden movements.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
7. Keep your hands where the police can see them. If you must reach for your ID or insurance, inform the officer of what you need to do before _____.
 - a. moving your hands
 - b. speaking
 - c. giving your name
8. Comply with officer's requests for identification and proof of _____.
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 - b. reasonable doubt
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19. If you feel the officer is exceeding his/her authority or otherwise mistreating you, remember the officer's _____, write down the details of the incident ASAP, and make a complaint via local law enforcement's non-emergency hotline.
- a. badge number
 - b. face
 - c. height
20. After this presentation, how prepared do you feel to interact with law enforcement officers in a situation such as a traffic stop? (Answers will vary.)
- a. more prepared than before
 - b. the same...no more and no less prepared than before
 - c. less prepared

What other questions do you have regarding how to interact with peace officers?

Answers will vary.



What NOT To Do Role-Play Activity

Traffic Stop Scenarios

Teacher Instructions:

Place students into pairs and assign each pair a scenario to role-play. Give students about 10 minutes to practice their role-play scenario. In every scenario, one student will play the officer and one student will play the driver. Students will come up with their own dialogue and act out what they think the scenario would look like. When you feel they have had enough time to come up with their skit, reconvene as a whole class and place two chairs at the front of the room (side-by-side to represent the front seat of a car). Using the chairs, each pair will perform their role-play scenario for the class. After each performance, ask the class to determine what mistakes were made or what could have been done differently.

Scenario 1: In this scenario, the driver refuses to roll down the window, provide identification, or identify themselves. The driver is non-compliant and also refuses to get out of the car when asked.

Scenario 2: In this scenario, the driver immediately begins crying and trying to avoid a citation by attempting emotional manipulation.

Scenario 3: In this scenario, the driver argues repeatedly with the officer and tries to avoid a citation by stating he/she knows the Chief or Mayor (for example), and is threatening to call a supervisor.

Scenario 4: In this scenario, the driver tries to “flirt” with or flatter the officer in order to try to avoid a citation.

Scenario 5: In this scenario, the driver is talking on the phone and refuses to end the phone call.

Scenario 6: In this scenario, the driver begins recording the officer with a cell phone and trying to provoke the officer into an argument or altercation by using insults or by taunting the officer.

Scenario 7: In this scenario, the driver immediately accuses the officer of “profiling” (unfairly targeting a specific race or ethnicity) and begins complaining about large societal problems that are unrelated to the traffic stop.

Scenario 8: In this scenario, the driver claims innocence, demands proof of the traffic violation, and refuses to accept the citation (will not take it, refuses to sign it, or tears it up, for example).

Scenario 9: In this scenario, the driver pretends not to speak English.



Scenario 10: In this scenario, the driver is nervous and gets out of the car without prompting (driver may also place his hands in his pockets while talking to the officer).

Scenario 11: In this scenario, the driver tries to bribe the officer with money taped to the back of their driver's license.

Scenario 12: In this scenario, the driver is listening to music and won't turn it down or take out their ear buds.

Scenario 13: In this scenario, the driver reaches across the passenger seat to the glove compartment or is reaching around in the car for a purse or backpack (without asking/alerting officer).

Scenario 14: In this scenario, the driver keeps his/her hands on the wheel and calmly tells the officer that they have a license to carry a firearm and that there is a firearm present in the glove compartment. (This one is a kind of trick question for the audience because the driver does not make any mistakes...driver is calm and compliant, and discloses to the officer the presence of a firearm...driver does NOT reach for anything.)

Scenario 15: In this scenario, the officer asks the driver for consent to search the vehicle and the driver refuses and becomes angry or belligerent. The officer brings a drug-sniffing dog around the vehicle, and then asks the driver to step out of the vehicle. The driver is angrily exclaiming "I never consented to this! I want my lawyer!"

Scenario 16: In this scenario, the driver ignores the officer's instructions and just keeps telling jokes and stories (driver is oblivious, not listening, and just doesn't stop talking).

(Group of 3 or more) Scenario 17: In this scenario, the passengers in the car are being loud, distracting, and unpredictable. The driver is not helping the situation (does not ask his passengers to be quiet, for example).



TEXAS S.B. 30: THE COMMUNITY SAFETY EDUCATION ACT

PROPER INTERACTION WITH PEACE OFFICERS



PURPOSE

- The term "**peace officer**" is used to describe anyone who has statutory **law enforcement** powers.
- Citizens may interact with peace officers in a variety of situations, some of them stressful.
- In 2017, the Texas Legislature passed the Community Safety Education Act requiring high school students to receive instruction on how to properly interact with law enforcement officers.
- The purpose of the instruction is for the safety of citizens and officers alike.

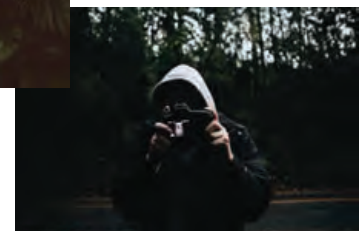
TWO TRIVIA QUESTIONS

- What is the most common reason for contact with the police?
- A TRAFFIC STOP
- What do all of the following people have in common (besides being killers)?
 - Timothy McVeigh (the Oklahoma City bomber)
 - David "Son of Sam" Berkowitz (a serial killer)
 - Mohammed Atta (ringleader of the 9/11 attacks)
- Hint: Preceding their arrests, they all came to the attention of law enforcement through...



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- In every officer & citizen interaction, you have certain rights and responsibilities.
- For example, you may have the right to record the interaction with your cell phone...
- But you also have a responsibility to consider the safety of everyone involved. If you pull your cell phone out of your pocket and point it at an officer, they may NOT KNOW it's a cell phone!



<https://www.needpix.com/photo/795174/camera-forest-man-outdoors-person-photographer-trees-free-pictures-free-photos> <https://www.pexels.com/en/public-domain-photo-jcfma>

THE ICEBERG ANALOGY

- A law enforcement officer's actions during a traffic stop are like an iceberg.
- The driver only sees what is happening on the surface, but there is a lot going on in the officer's mind below the surface.
- Officer and civilian safety are the #1 priority.



VIDEO

- https://youtu.be/_IS6euS8QSo
- <https://youtu.be/Fi60a-W0Qsc>

(Both links will show the same video. Two links provided in case one does not work.)

- As you watch the video, please complete the handout.



QUESTIONS

- Read the “20 Tips for Interacting with Law Enforcement”
- What questions do you have?



ASSESSMENT

- Thank you for your participation!
- You will now take a follow-up POST-TEST to assess your understanding.
- If you have remaining questions, please ask!

