

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Tripodi/Law and You

# The Plea

## Viewing guide

1. Why do you think the judge asks, "Do you plead guilty because you, in fact, committed the crimes you're charged with?"
2. Early in the video, one woman was worried she'd get "five to 99 years" in prison. Who decides how many years she gets, if she's convicted?
3. What's your initial reaction when Irma Fay's public defender does not remember the case?
4. According to Steve Bright, why do people plead guilty?
5. What happened to those who awaited trial when the heroin charges were dismissed due to disreputable witnesses?
6. What happened to those who had pled guilty?
7. In your opinion, how does the system prey on the uneducated?
8. How does it prey on the economically disadvantaged?

9. What's your initial reaction to Francis Egitto, the judge in the Gampero trial?
  
10. Why would Judge Egitto – or any judge, for that matter – want to scare defendants?
  
11. What does a plea of *nolo contendere*, or "no contest", mean?

For Monday, write a brief essay responding to one of these two prompts:

1. It's suggested that Kelly Jarrett values her integrity above her own freedom. Is there anything **you** would place above liberty?
  
2. Near the end of the program, Bruce Barket, Gampero's current lawyer, says memorably: "Out is out. Get out" of the system. Does the plea-bargain tactic – and the labyrinthine processes within the criminal justice system – effectively undermine citizens' Fifth Amendment rights? Why or why not?