

# The Law and You essay assignment

(or, if you prefer, a project)

**Due: Thursday, December 20, 2007**

**Grading: 50 points**

Your assignment is to address one of the topics below. You only need to answer one prompt, but you should do so completely and comprehensively.

The suggested product of this assignment is a five-paragraph essay.

You may also create some type of presentation – video, slideshow, sock puppet play, etc. – instead of an essay, and share it with the class. If you aren't sure if your presentation idea is acceptable, ask me.

Choose one of following:

1. In the last six weeks, we've discussed a series of legal procedures and codes that help to "maintain the system". Define the following, and explain why prosecuting each is crucial to keep the criminal justice system running smoothly: accessory to a crime before the fact; accessory after the fact; conspiracy; skipping out on jury duty.
2. Analyze the episode of *Monk* we watched, entitled "Mr. Monk Gets Jury Duty". Why is this scenario entirely implausible? Give at least four examples from the show, and explain why they'd never happen in real life.
3. Consider *12 Angry Men*, and the uphill battle fought by Juror #8, played by Jack Lemmon. Juror #8 faces an almost impossible task – anyone who's faced eleven hostile voices knows how hard it is to stand up for even the strongest belief. Is the jury process tilted against the accused? Does jury deliberation illustrate a flaw in the American jury system? Why or why not?
4. Does Pennsylvania's DUI law do its intended job? Is it too harsh? Too lenient? Justify your answer. (The last two pages of your DUI Week packet has a debate similar to this question – you may use it as a reference, but I want your opinion.)