Sources of Law

A. One Accident, Two Trials. Follow the diagram through to the questions below.

**Car Crash Report**

Tracy was driving under the influence when she hit Steve's car at an intersection after running a stop sign. Steve was hurt in the accident. Tracy failed the breathalyzer test at the scene of the crash.

**Criminal Law**

The police arrest Tracy for driving drunk. The state decides to prosecute. It charges her with violating the state's drunk driving law.

In the criminal trial, the jury finds Tracy guilty of violating the drunk driving law.

As a result of the jury's verdict, the judge issues a sentence. The judge follows the sentencing guidelines found in state law. The judge revokes Tracy’s drivers license for two years and sentences her to 30 days in prison.

**Civil Law**

Steve files a lawsuit against Tracy, claiming that she drove carelessly. He asks for the money he spent on car repairs and medical bills, in addition to the time lost from work.

In the civil trial, the jury finds that Tracy drove carelessly. The jury awards Steve enough money to cover his medical bills and car repairs.

**Did you know?**

Someone can be found innocent in a criminal case but found at fault in a civil case and be ordered to pay for damages.

After the jury returns its verdict, the judge orders Tracy to pay Steve the amount that the jury decided he should receive for his bills and repairs.

**Compare & Contrast.** Based on what you have learned, complete the Venn diagram by using the statements below.

(A) The defendant may have to pay money
(B) The defendant may get jail time or loss of privileges
(C) Deals with a crime that has committed
(D) The case involves a problem between two individuals
(E) The case involves the government against a person
(F) Trials can be heard and decided by a jury
(G) The remedy is decided according to state guidelines
(H) The remedy is decided according to what is asked for

![Venn Diagram](attachment:Diagram.png)

Worksheet p.1
Sources of Law

**TEACHER GUIDE**

Vocabulary. Match the term with the correct definition from the lesson.

_D_ 1. delinquent  
A) An interpretation of a law that is used in later trials

_A_ 2. precedent  
B) Set of laws specifically for the U.S. military

_E_ 3. United States Code  
C) A disagreement brought to the courts for a resolution

_C_ 4. lawsuit  
D) A young person found guilty of a crime

_B_ 5. UCMJ  
E) Collection of laws passes by the United States Congress

What If? Select the correct type of law based on the scenario.

_A_ 6. When a soldier failed to return to base after going on leave, he was charged and brought to trial for being AWOL (Absent Without Official Leave).
   a. Military Law
   b. Juvenile Law
   c. Civil Law
   d. Criminal Law

_B_ 8. Julie was pulled over by the police at 2:00am and was charged with breaking the curfew law in her town. She was fined and released back to her parents.
   a. Military Law
   b. Juvenile Law
   c. Civil Law
   d. Criminal Law

_D_ 7. A man was caught on tape robbing a gas station. He was arrested, brought to trial, and found guilty of burglary. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison and a fine.
   a. Military Law
   b. Juvenile Law
   c. Civil Law
   d. Criminal Law

_C_ 9. A married couple decides to get a divorce. They disagree over who gets what. A judge hears both sides and makes a decision about how their property should be divided.
   a. Military Law
   b. Juvenile Law
   c. Civil Law
   d. Criminal Law

_B_ 10. The Smith family has decided to adopt their foster child, Anna. They work with their state adoption agency to complete all of the necessary paperwork.
   a. Military Law
   b. Juvenile Law
   c. Civil Law
   d. Criminal Law

_C_ 11. Karen ordered an iPod off the internet and paid with her credit card, but she never received the order. The seller is refusing to refund her money, so she takes the matter to court.
   a. Military Law
   b. Juvenile Law
   c. Civil Law
   d. Criminal Law

Worksheet p.2
Sources of Law

The Candidate at the Post Office: A Case Study

In 2006, a Massachusetts man collected signatures and campaigned for political office on the sidewalk right outside the post office. The sidewalk was located on post office property. He was told that this activity was against Postal Service regulations, but he refused to stop and was arrested.

The man fought the charges, saying that the regulation limited his right to free speech. The Post Office argued that the sidewalk was property of the Postal Service—not public property like other sidewalks. He had been asked to move to the public city sidewalk along the street, but had refused.

The case reached the First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. The court sided with the Post Office, saying that the regulation did not violate the First Amendment. The Post Office’s sidewalk was unique from the city sidewalk, where the candidate could have gathered signatures without any problem. The court’s decision was based on a number of earlier decisions about freedom of speech and also serves as a precedent for future cases.

A. Making Connections. Match the statement to the correct source of law.

B. 1. Gives Congress power to establish post offices
E. 2. Laws about the Postal Service made by Congress
D. 3. Laws created by the Postal Service so it can run smoothly
A. 4. Decisions made by courts about any of the laws regarding the Postal Service
C. 5. Laws about what you can and cannot do on the city sidewalks

A) precedent
B) The U.S. Constitution
C) ordinance
D) regulations
E) statutes

B. It Affects Me! Check the source of law you think most affects people in their everyday lives:

☐ The U.S. Constitution
☐ Statutes passed by Congress
☐ Regulations passed by federal agencies
☐ Legal precedent
☐ Local ordinances

Why did you select this source of law? Give at least two reasons based on what you have learned in this lesson:

Answers will vary on both of these questions. Use as discussion to check for understanding of the five sources of law.

Worksheet p.3