**Unit 1 Bellwork – Law and Juvenile Justice**

**(15 Entries)**

Aug. 24

* List 10 of your daily activities (i.e. waking up, eating, going to school) Next to each item, list any laws that affect that activity. What is the purpose of each law that you identified? Would you change any of these laws? Why or why not.

Aug. 28

* Why do societies have governments and laws? What is the purpose of these institutes and how do they relate to your everyday life.

Aug. 30

* Laws are based on individual values/beliefs. Name 3 laws that currently exist or should exist based on your personal values and explain why they are important to you.

Sept. 4

* Define what you think are human rights and civil rights. Explain the difference between the two.

Sept. 6

* At what age should an individual be tried as an adult in court, and does it matter on the type of crime? If so, give an example, and explain your reasoning.

Sept. 10

* What types of crime do believe is committed the most in the United States? Explain your choice.

Sept. 12

* Why do young people sometimes commit acts of vandalism?
* Can anything be done to reduce acts of vandalism? Explain.
* Should parents be criminally responsible for willful damage caused by their children? Explain your opinion.

Sept. 14

* Do you think gangs are a serious problem in Omaha, NE? Explain.
* Why do you think people join gangs, and can anything be done to decrease membership?
* Should steps be taken at the national level to deal with the problem, or is this a state and city issue? Explain.

Sept. 18

* Should a convicted person ever be allowed to use insanity or temporary insanity to plead not guilty in the court system? Explain your answer.

Sept. 20

* Explain your opinion. Should capital punishment (Death Penalty) be allowed?
* Do you believe that the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment? Explain your answer.
  + All methods of execution are cruel
  + Certain methods are cruel/unusual
  + Punishment is not harsh enough
* Should all states be made to have the death penalty? Why/why not.
* Do you believe that life in prison is equal punishment for a crime that could receive the death penalty.

Sept. 24

**Situation:**

Ms. Urbanski kept a pistol in her home as protection against intruders. One evening, she heard a noise in the den and went to investigate. Upon entering the room, she saw a man stealing her television. The burglar, seeing the gun, ran for the window, but Ms. Urbanski fired and killed him before he could escape. In a trial for manslaughter, Ms. Urbanski pleaded self-defense.

**Questions:**

1. Would you find her guilty? Explain.
2. Would your answer be different if your state had a “Make My Day” law? Explain.

Sept. 26

**Situation:**

In 2000, a bill designed to curb law enforcement and police abuses/brutality was introduced in Congress. The Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act garnered strong support from police organizations and civil rights organizations, but failed to become law.

**Question:**

What do you think about the recommendations made in the 2000 congressional bill? What steps would work best to improve local police-citizen relations? Explain how/why your ideas could work.

Oct. 1

**Directions**

Decide whether the search violates the 4th Amendment and if the evidence seized can be used in court. Explain your decisions.

**Situation**

The police see Dell standing at a bus stop on a downtown street, in an area where there is extensive drug dealing. They stop and search him and find drugs in his pocket.

Oct. 3

* What is the purpose of the constitutional right not to be subjected to excessive bail, and should it be applied to all people who are arrested?
  + Give an example in which a person should be released without any bail requirements.
  + Give an example in which a person should not be released on bail of any kind.

Oct. 5

* Why is the right to a jury and speedy, public trial guaranteed by the Bill of Rights? Do you think jury verdicts should be unanimous? Explain. Why should the trial process be speedy and public? Explain the possible benefits and downfalls of a speedy, public trial? Give examples.