

## Rule of Law: Skit Activity **Sample Answers**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions after watching/listening to each skit.

### **Skit #1: Order and Security**

1. What problems occur to the friends?  
The friends had a hard time finding a police officer and when they found one, the police officer did not have a way to help get their belongings back.
2. How could this problem be solved by the police officer?  
The problem could have been solved by the police officer by having a way to enforce the laws that were broken. Without a way to punish the criminal, the robberies are likely to continue happening.
3. What protections do we have in our governmental system that would protect the friends in this situation?  
The U.S. government has a branch of government designed to enforce laws by police officers to hold everyone accountable. If there is a robbery, like in the skit, there is a way to contact the police, laws to protect the people, and a system in place to punish people who commit crimes.

### **Skit #2: Legitimacy**

4. Why is there a problem that the building codes are only created for “fancy places” and not all places?  
The government is only thinking about a certain group of people, not all of the citizens of the country.
5. Do you think the government is fair for creating laws on car emissions without giving the people an opportunity to correctly fix their vehicles? Why or why not? Explain your answer.  
No, the government is not being fair because the people have no way to follow the laws if they are unable to get the right parts to fix the problem. Fining people, or another form of punishment, will not solve this problem.

### **Skit #3: Checks and Balances**

6. What problems exist when changing the mine safety rules?  
The problem is that the workers could suffer consequences for not having the right safety rules in place.
7. If there was a strong judicial branch in this scenario, what problem could have been avoided?  
The judicial branch could step in and keep one branch of government from having too much power.
8. What protections do we have in our governmental system that would protect this situation from happening?

In the United States, we have three branches of government that have checks and balances to make sure that each branch is doing what it was supposed to do and to keep one from gaining too much power.

#### **Skit #4: Equal Application of the Law**

9. Was the punishment fair for the thief? Why or why not? Explain your answer.  
No, the punishment was not fair because they stole something that was not worth a lot of money to be sentenced to five years in jail and a \$5,000 fine. The person probably could not afford an expensive fine because if they had that money, they could have bought the potatoes.
10. If you were the Judge what would you do to the Town Mayor after finding out what happened with him at the market?  
I would hold the Town Mayor accountable for their actions and create a fair punishment for breaking things in the store and hurting the owner.
11. What protections do we have in our governmental system that would protect this situation from happening?  
In the United States, we have the rule of law which means that everyone is accountable to the law and just because you are a mayor does not mean you should get special treatment.

#### **Skit #5: Procedural Fairness**

12. What problem do the prisoners have in this scenario?  
The prisoners are not being treated fairly because they are in jail for a long time and no one has heard their side of the story. These prisoners could be innocent and do not even need to be in jail.
13. What protections do we have in our governmental system that would protect this situation from happening?  
In the United States, people accused of a crime have the right to a fair trial and to be heard before being punished.

#### **Skit #6: Access to Justice**

14. What problems does Tamara have with the court system?  
Tamara cannot get her farm land back because she lives too far from the court and it has been closed for six months.
15. What protections do we have in our governmental system that would protect this situation from happening?  
In the United States, there are courts that are closer to people than 500 miles to make it easy and accessible for people to rely on the justice system. Also, courts do not close for six months at a time and are operating all of the time.