



Teacher Planning and Implementation Guideline

The Virginia Law Foundation/The Virginia Bar Association Rule of Law Project is simple and free. Using the Guideline below provides the information you need to implement the Project in your division:

1. Contact your local bar association to recruit volunteers, informing them of your interest in introducing The VLF/VBA Rule of Law Project in your school or division. Select a day mutually agreeable for you and for the bar association.
2. Share the following information with your local bar contact to assist them in identifying the needed volunteers:
 - a. Number of teachers, number of classes per teacher, and number of students per class;
 - b. Teachers' schedules/length of classes;
 - c. Content currently being covered in class; and
 - d. Teachers' contact information.
3. Teacher and volunteer communicate prior to the event to design the lesson for the day. Using free materials from our website (www.thecenterforruleoflaw.org) or activities created locally, the team plans a program that engages students in a discussion of the rule of law.
4. Another successful model involves holding an assembly with keynote speakers representing the three branches of government and local law enforcement. After the keynote addresses, students break into small groups to meet with speakers, volunteers, and teachers to discuss specific cases or locally created scenarios (see website for free examples: www.thecenterforruleoflaw.org).
5. Before the event, teachers should show the video "The Law Rules," a commentary on the rule of law from the perspectives of state supreme court justices, a former governor, and a lawyer. A 15-year old student hosts the video, putting the adult words into language students will easily understand. The video is available at from the You Tube link on our homepage or by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTXoz-FRXo41JHQZArXdOA>.
6. Inform your instructional staff to review the website, especially the "The Rule of Law in Action" videos on our homepage, to review the variety of resources available for their use. Also encourage participating teachers to contact their volunteer to schedule a pre-visitation meeting to

plan for the class activity. Remind them that they will be team teaching with their volunteer, so pre-planning is crucial for a successful class.

7. Upon completion of the one-day event, the teachers will be asked to complete a short on-line evaluation of the project.

Educators who wish to adapt this model or create their own project should consider the following goals:

1. Educators and community volunteers work together to expand civic education.
2. Educators help students understand that social justice and equity begin in the classroom, and that diversity and inclusiveness are the life blood of a vibrant and productive multicultural society in which all citizens have value.
3. Encourage students to become responsible citizens by valuing the diversity of cultural norms and traditions; religious, political, and socio-economic differences; racial and ethnic backgrounds; individual abilities, and gender.
4. Promote the belief that educators serve as the best resource for changing the world one student at a time.

I hope you have found this information helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me. I welcome your questions.

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