



Sociology Virtual Learning

# High School/Lesson 35

## Crime & Punishment

May 8, 2020



Sociology  
Lesson: May 8, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:**

The student will describe four approaches to crime control.

## Warm Up:

Think about your community. What is crime like there? How do you find out about crime in your community? How is crime controlled in your community?

## Warm Up:

Think about your community. What is crime like in your area? How do you find out about crime in your community? How is crime controlled in your community?

Crime statistics in the U.S. come from two major sources: The F.B.I. and the Census Bureau.

Today we will learn four approaches to crime control.

## Crime Statistics:

Before we get into crime control, check out these links to find out more about crime in your region.

[FBI Crime Statistics by State](#)

[Independence, MO Crime Statistics](#)

# Essential Vocabulary:

*Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary words and refer back to them as needed:*

**crime**  
acts committed in violation  
of the law

**deterrence**  
discouraging criminal acts by  
threatening punishment

**retribution**  
punishment intended to make  
criminals pay compensation  
for their acts

**incarceration**  
a method of protecting society  
from criminals by keeping  
them in prisons

**rehabilitation**  
process of changing or  
reforming a criminal through  
socialization

# Lesson/Activity Introduction:

The **criminal justice system** is made up of the institutions & processes responsible for enforcing criminal statutes. It includes the police, courts, & correctional system. A criminal justice system may draw on four approaches to control and punish lawbreakers.

These approaches are: **deterrence, retribution, incarceration, and rehabilitation.**

## Lesson/Activity:

### *Does punishment discourage crime?*

The **deterrence** approach uses the threat of punishment to discourage criminal actions. There is a lot of debate on if this is effective or not. Research indicates that it can deter crime if potential criminals believe that they may be caught & that the punishment will be severe. However, capital punishment (death penalty) is a special case. For more information on this topic [click here](#).



## Lesson/Activity:

### *What is retribution?*

**Retribution** is a type of punishment intended to make criminals pay compensation for their acts. It comes from the idea of “an eye for an eye & a tooth for a tooth.” The law allows designated officials to exact retribution, but it does not allow individuals to seek personal vengeance. There are consequences for people who “take the law into their own hands.”

## Lesson/Activity:

### *Why does society keep criminals in prison?*

**Incarceration** is based on the idea that criminals who are not on the streets cannot commit crime. It is a method of protecting society from criminals by keeping them in prison.

You may have heard of **mass incarceration** as a current societal problem in the US. For more information on mass incarceration, [click here](#). Reform of the criminal justice system is an important political topic today.

# Lesson/Activity:

## *Do prisons rehabilitate criminals?*

**Rehabilitation** is an approach to crime control that attempts to resocialize criminals into society. Most prisons have some form of rehabilitation programs, though not all prisoners take part in them. Here, prisoners learn necessary work, social and emotional skills to help them transition back into society. Although some criminals are rehabilitated, the U.S. has a very high recidivism rate.

**Recidivism** is when criminals return to committing crime upon their release from incarceration.

# Lesson/Activity:

## *What are some alternatives to prisons?*

1. A combination of prison & probation
2. Community based programs like work release programs, juvenile boot camps
3. Diversion strategy- programs that are designed to prevent or reduce the offender's involvement in the criminal justice system. Examples: community service, treatment programs, etc.

# Practice- answer the following questions on a sheet of paper:

1. Indicate whether the approaches to punishment listed below are rehabilitation (R), deterrence (D), retribution (Rb), or incarceration (I):
  - a. Imprisonment without parole
  - b. Longer prison sentences
  - c. Extremely harsh prison conditions
  - d. Psychological counseling in prison
  - e. Swift justice
  
2. What is your stance on the death penalty?

# Practice- answer key

1. Indicate whether the approaches to punishment listed below are rehabilitation (R), deterrence (D), retribution (Rb), or incarceration (I):
  - a. Imprisonment without parole **I**
  - b. Longer prison sentences **I or D**
  - c. Extremely harsh prison conditions **Rb or D**
  - d. Psychological counseling in prison **R**
  - e. Swift justice **D**
  
2. What is your stance on the death penalty? **Answers will vary.**

## Additional Resources:

1. [Death Penalty- Pro or Con?](#)
2. [History of Mass Incarceration](#)
3. [First Step Criminal Justice explained](#)