



HS Intro to Public Services

Monday, April 20, 2020



HS Intro to Public Services

Overall Lesson: **The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Public Services sector**

Sub lesson for Monday, April 20: Pre-Law Pathway -
Overview & Background

Learning Target:

Students will identify both traditional and non-traditional careers within the legal field and understand the variety of work environments where legal services are needed



Opening Exercise

- Read [this](#) article about how the COVID-19 pandemic is projected to impact the budgets of many cities. Then, reflect on the following questions:
 - *If cities have to make cuts to public services, which areas do you think they should cut? Why?*
 - *City public services include: police, fire, ambulance, sewerage, solid waste, parks, building and code enforcement, water, electricity, public transit, streets, airports*
 - *When looking at the different areas they could be cut, should police and public safety services be an option for cuts? Why/why not?*
 - *Do you believe the federal government should step in and help cities cover their losses? Why/why not? What other options would you propose?*



Overview of Pre-Law & Legal Services

- What is pre-law?
 - [TheFreeDictionary.com](https://www.thefreedictionary.com):
 - A course of study or curriculum intended to prepare a student for law school (noun)
 - Preparing for or relating to the studies that prepare one for the study of law (adjective)
- What are legal services?
 - [TheFreeDictionary.com](https://www.thefreedictionary.com):
 - The work performed by a lawyer for a client



Overview of Pre-Law & Legal Services

What careers are available in this field?

- Traditional:
 - Lawyer
 - Judge
 - Paralegal
 - Legal Assistant
 - Law Clerk
 - Court reporter
 - Court clerk



Overview of Pre-Law & Legal Services

What careers are available in this field?

(Source: The Balance)

- Non-traditional:

- **E-Discovery (Electronic Discovery) Professional**

- \$11 billion industry in 2018
- Help find and manage “electronically stored information (ESI)”

- **Legal Nurse Consultant**

- Advise attorneys in medically-related issues
- Earn up to \$200 an hour

- **Trial consultant**

- Use technology to help attorneys communicate and a jury understand complex things

- **Mediator**

- Help people settle legal disputes outside the courtroom
- Save cost of litigation (*which is settling a dispute in court*)



Overview of Pre-Law & Legal Services

- Where do they work?
 - Law firms
 - Federal, state, local governments
 - Courthouse
 - Administrative/executive/legislative bodies
 - Corporations
 - Private, non-profit organizations

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)



Overview of Pre-Law & Legal Services

- What job skills/qualities are required in the legal field?
 - Analytical/Critical thinking
 - Interpersonal
 - Problem-solving
 - Research
 - Speaking
 - Writing
 - Perseverance
 - Organization



Overview of Pre-Law & Legal Services

- Why choose the legal profession?
 - Lots of career options & opportunities
 - Financially lucrative
 - Serve others
 - Intellectually challenging
 - Stable
 - Prestigious
 - Constantly evolving

(Source: The Balance)



Practice

- Choose **2 different** jobs from the Pre-Law Pathway (*options listed on slides 5 & 6*).
- Using what we talked about in the “[Identifying good sources](#)” lesson, do some research and find **2** articles for **each** career offering information about how the pandemic is affecting their work. Some careers in this pathway might be affected in a similar way, and that’s OK. (*If Googling to find the articles, be specific in your search: “Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on (insert career here)” or “(Insert career here) response to COVID-19 pandemic”.*)
 - In one paragraph for each career, **summarize** (don’t copy & paste!) the two articles concerning each career (provide a link to each article). Then, **offer your perspective/analysis**:
 - Are you surprised by how this specific career has been affected? How do you think the impact the pandemic has had so far on this career might change as the pandemic progresses? How about after the pandemic is over?