

Grand Jury Simulation - LESSON PLAN

Learning Objectives: Students will...

1. Investigate the role a grand jury plays in the judicial system.
2. Analyze evidence and offer justification towards issuing, or not issuing, an indictment.
3. Explore consequences of bad decisions.

TEKS: 6th Grade: 12A, 22B, 7th Grade: 14A, 23A, 8th Grade: 15D, 31B

Materials Needed: Copies of the *Grand Jury Simulation* Handout and access to the following pieces of evidence: *Video clip of the crash, Anytown Police Report, Driver's Criminal Background Check, Map of showing scene of the crash, Anytown Report Card, Car Damage Receipt, two witness statements.*

Vocabulary: Criminal Negligence, Grand Jury, Indictment, Pedestrian, Petit Jury, Probable Cause, Prosecution, True Bill / No Bill

Teaching Strategy:

Distribute copies of the *Grand Jury Simulation* Handout. Read the first page aloud as a class.

Allow students time to research the vocabulary listed on the *Grand Jury Simulation Handout* and entertain questions they may hold regarding the content.

Then, have students analyze the prosecutorial evidence offered and write their justification for if they believe it shows guilt, or no guilt, of the crime committed. This could be done individually, in pairs, or small groups.

Come together as a class and vote on whether to indict or not indict. REMINDER: It takes 12 jury members to indict. For purposes of the simulation, and depending on class size, a simple majority will do.

Allow students time to reflect on their thoughts of the bill, or no bill, by answering the questions at the end of the Handout.

Grand Jury Simulation

CONGRATULATIONS

You have been selected to serve on a grand jury to decide if one of the individuals in your community should be indicted for an alleged crime. Grand juries require 16-23 members, but no matter how many serve, 12 are needed to issue what is called a “true bill,” also known as an “indictment.”

WORDS TO KNOW

To best serve your community, make sure you are familiar with the words listed below:

- Criminal Negligence
- Grand Jury
- Indictment
- Pedestrian
- Petit Jury
- Prosecution
- Probable Cause
- True Bill / No Bill

YOUR JOB

As a grand jury member, your job is not to decide guilt, but decide if there is *probable cause* to hold a suspect accountable. Probable cause is a reasonable belief that a crime has been committed based on known facts and circumstances.

DETAILS OF THE CASE

At 7:31 PM on May 4, 2025, Carson Mistep was on his way home from work when struck by a car moving into the lane. Both Carson and the other driver turned down a street to exchange information when a pedestrian wearing dark clothing entered the crosswalk and was hit by Carson. Both Carson and the other driver stopped to render aid to the victim. 911 was called and an ambulance was on the scene within seven minutes. Paramedics transferred the victim to Grand Mercy Hospital where the patient was treated for a broken hip and concussion.

THE LAW

Texas Law requires drivers to stop and yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully in intersections and crosswalks. In 2021, the Texas Legislature passed the Lisa Torry Smith Act, which added the following to the Transportation Code:

Section 545.428(b): a person commits an offense if the person with criminal negligence:

- (1) operates a motor vehicle within the area of a crosswalk; and
- (2) causes bodily injury to a pedestrian or a person operating a bicycle, motor-assisted scooter, electronic personal assistive mobility device, neighborhood electric vehicle, or golf cart.

This offense is a Class A misdemeanor. If, however, there is “serious” bodily injury, it is punishable as a state jail felony. Affirmative defenses are provided if the pedestrian was violating the law regarding the crosswalks or roadways at the time of the collision.

ASSIGNMENT

Evaluate each piece of evidence offered by the prosecution and decide if there is enough probable cause to launch an indictment for violation of the Lisa Torry Smith Act.

Grand Jury Simulation

PART I

Directions: Evaluate each piece of evidence and offer justification for if it presents guilt or not.

#	Piece of Evidence	Guilty/Not Guilty	Justification
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			

PART II

Directions: Vote on whether to indict Carson for violating the Lisa Torry Smith Act. Remember that it takes 12 members or more to indict.

Total Number of Members	Number of YES Votes	Number of NO Votes

Questions

1. Was Carson indicted by the grand jury for the Lisa Torry Smith Act?
2. Do you agree with the decision of the grand jury? Why or why not?

MTSI Grand Jury Lesson

Link to video of the Car Crash

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wLQPduOaEnT0b_xbtSbpFfoYepw70MbF/view?usp=sharing



Anytown Police Department

54321 West Lookout Lane, Anytown, USA 01234

apd@email.com

POLICE REPORT

Date: May 4, 2025	Prepared By: Officer Mayhem
Case No. 0224-25	Department: Traffic Division

Incident Details: 1700 Bumble Avenue 911 caller states 2 vehicles involved in a minor accident. 1 Pedestrian struck in crosswalk Ambulance 49 enroute All parties remain at the scene.	Suspect Name: Carson Mistep Address: 123 Blumberton Drive Everywhere, USA 01234 Contact Information: 321-123-4444 / carson.mistep@me.com
Incident Type: Traffic	Date Reported: May 6, 2025
Where did the incident take place? 1700 Bumble Avenue	Date of Incident: May 4, 2025
Time of Incident: 7:31 PM	Was/were the victim(s) hospitalized? Yes, one victim was transferred by ambulance
How many people were involved? 2 people	What Hospital? Grand Mercy Hospital
Narrative: Case # 0224-25 On May 4, 2025 at approximately 7:31PM, Officer Mayhem, #7696, was dispatched to a vehicular accident involving a pedestrian at 1700 Bumble Avenue. Suspect Mistep was involved in an accident with an additional vehicle. Both vehicles were driveable. While attempting to pull over to a safe area to exchange information, Complainant Saunter, who was a pedestrian, was struck by Suspect Mistep's vehicle. Complainant Saunter stated, while walking in the middle of the crosswalk, Suspect Mistep's vehicle came out of nowhere and struck him causing pain to his head and hip. Suspect Mistep and the other driver stopped and rendered aid to the complainant. 911 was called and Ambulance 49 was dispatched arriving on the scene within seven minutes. Paramedics Smith #383, and Wells, #644, transported the Complainant Saunter to Grand Mercy Hospital where the complainant was treated for a broken hip and concussion. Drivers license and contact information was exchanged by both drivers, witness statements were taken, and drivers were released to return home. NFI	

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT FORM

Anytown Police Department
54321 West Lookout Lane
Anytown, USA 01234
469-867-5309 Fax 469-867-5301

Name: (Last/First/Middle) Sam Saunter Date of Birth: 8/03/1958 Gender M or F

Home Address: 8 Trail Blazer Rd.

City: Anytown State: USA Zip: 62143

Home Phone: Work Phone: Cell Phone: 321-878-1125

Place Statement Taken: Grand Mercy Hosp Date: 5/04/25 Time: 11:28 PM

I, the undersigned, Sam Saunter, do hereby make the following statement to Officer Nathan, having first identified myself as a Texasian, knowing that I may have an attorney on my behalf present and that I do not have to make any statement nor incriminate myself in any manner. I make this statement voluntarily, of my own free will, knowing that such statement could later be used against me in any court of law, and I declare that this statement is made without any threat, coercion, offer of benefit, favor or offer of favor, leniency or offer of leniency by any person or persons whatsoever.

I was out for an evening stroll, like I always do, when a car came out of nowhere and hit me. I was crossing a street at the crosswalk in my neighborhood, one I have crossed a hundred times, and was struck by a Gray SUV. I was wearing a black t-shirt, gray sweatpants, and white tennis shoes that have reflectors on them. When the car struck me, I flew into the air and had to be transferred by ambulance to Grand Mercy Hospital. I broke my hip & have a

Warning! By signing this document, I declare that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I am also aware that making a false or misleading statement to a Law Enforcement Officer is a crime which is punishable in a court of law.

Conclusion

Sam Saunter Grand Mercy Hospital 5/04/25
Signature Location Date

Officer Nathan Grand Mercy Hospital 5/4/2025
Witnessed By: Location Date

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT FORM

Anytown Police Department
54321 West Lookout Lane
Anytown, USA 01234
469-867-5309 Fax 469-867-5301

Name: (Last/First/Middle) Carson I. Mistep Date of Birth: 12/06/2009 Gender M or F

Home Address: 123 Blumberton Drive

City: Everywhere State: USA Zip: 01234

Home Phone: 321-123-4444 Work Phone: 321-567-8942 Cell Phone 321-123-4444

Place Statement Taken: 1700 Bumble Ave. Date: 5/04/2025 Time: 9:02 PM

I, the undersigned, Carson Mistep, do hereby make the following statement to Officer Mayhem, having first identified myself as a student, knowing that I may have an attorney on my behalf present and that I do not have to make any statement nor incriminate myself in any manner. I make this statement voluntarily, of my own free will, knowing that such statement could later be used against me in any court of law, and I declare that this statement is made without any threat, coercion, offer of benefit, favor or offer of favor, leniency or offer of leniency by any person or persons whatsoever.

It was dark outside & I was driving in the left lane of a busy 3 lane road. I put my turn signal on and changed lanes to my right so that I was in the center lane. Just a second later, a car from the right lane swerved into my lane (the center lane) and hit me. It shook me up, but I immediately put on my hazard lights and began to pull over so we could exchange insurance information. I could tell from my rearview mirror that the driver wasn't taking off like a "hit & run" or something. I signaled to turn right onto a side street with the other car following behind me. Unfortunately, when I turned onto the side street, I didn't notice that there was a crosswalk just a little ways down the road. I glanced in my rearview mirror to be sure the other driver followed me at the turn, and by the time I glanced back at the road, it was too late and my car was entering the crosswalk, hitting a man who was crossing the street. I couldn't have been going more than 15 or 20 miles per hour because I was looking for a good place to stop, but I still didn't have enough time to hit the brakes before hitting him. I quickly jumped out to check on him and ~~waited~~ 911 was called.

Warning! By signing this document, I declare that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I am also aware that making a false or misleading statement to a Law Enforcement Officer is a crime which is punishable in a court of law.

Carson Mistep 1700 Bumble Ave. May 4, 2025
Signature Location Date

Officer Mayhem 1700 Bumble Ave May 4, 2025
Witnessed By: Location Date

Statement Page: 1 of 1

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT FORM

Anytown Police Department
54321 West Lookout Lane
Anytown, USA 01234
469-867-5309 Fax 469-867-5301

Name: (Last/First/Middle) Kirby Stander Date of Birth: 02/24/1974 Gender M or F

Home Address: 2747 Flydy Lane

City: Anywhere State: USA Zip: 02143

Home Phone: 321-750-0001 Work Phone: Cell Phone 321-750-0001

Place Statement Taken: 1700 Bumble Ave Date: 5/04/2025 Time: 8:51 PM

I, the undersigned, Kirby Stander, do hereby make the following statement to Officer Mayhem, having first identified myself as a onlooker, knowing that I may have an attorney on my behalf present and that I do not have to make any statement nor incriminate myself in any manner. I make this statement voluntarily, of my own free will, knowing that such statement could later be used against me in any court of law, and I declare that this statement is made without any threat, coercion, offer of benefit, favor or offer of favor, leniency or offer of leniency by any person or persons whatsoever.

I was walking to the store from my house and I saw a man ahead of me about 10 yds. who was heading the same direction as me. A lot of people in our neighborhood take that path through the neighborhood and park to the shopping center. When I was almost to the start of the crosswalk, the man ahead of me was about 2/3 the way through it and almost to the other side of the street when an SUV came out of nowhere and hit him. The car wasn't going very fast, but I was shocked to see the pedestrian thrown as far as he was and the sound he made when the car hit him was something I will never be able to erase from my memory. It was an awful sound, followed by the screech of the SUV's brakes. The driver got out of their car and was visibly shaken. We both went to render aid to the man and I called 911 right away.

Warning! By signing this document, I declare that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I am also aware that making a false or misleading statement to a Law Enforcement Officer is a crime which is punishable in a court of law.

Kirby Stander 1700 Bumble Ave 5/04/2025
Signature Location Date

Officer Mayhem 1700 Bumble Ave 5/4/2025
Witnessed By: Location Date

Driver & Witness Statements - Grand Jury Lesson

Suspect (Driver) Carson Mistep:

It was dark outside and I was driving in the left lane of a busy 3 lane road. I put my turn signal on and changed lanes to my right so that I was in the center lane. Just a second later, a car from the right lane swerved into my lane (the center lane) and hit me. It shook me up, but I immediately put on my hazard lights and began to pull over so that we could exchange insurance information. I could tell from my rearview mirror that the other car was following me to pull over as well, and I was relieved that the driver wasn't taking off like a "hit and run" or something. I signaled to turn right onto a side street with the other car following behind me. Unfortunately, when I turned onto the side street, I didn't notice that there was a crosswalk just a little ways down the road. I glanced in my rearview mirror to be sure the other driver followed me at the turn, and by the time I glanced back at the road, it was too late and my car was entering the crosswalk, hitting a man who was crossing the street. I couldn't have been going more than 15 or 20 miles per hour because I was looking for a good place to stop, but I still didn't have enough time to hit the brakes before hitting him. I quickly jumped out to check on him and 911 was called.

Complainant (Pedestrian) Sam Saunter:

I was out for an evening stroll, like I always do, when a car came out of nowhere and hit me. I was crossing a street at the crosswalk in my neighborhood, one I have crossed a hundred times, and was struck by a gray SUV. I was wearing a black t-shirt, gray sweatpants, and white tennis shoes that have reflectors on them. When the car struck me, I flew into the air and had to be transferred by ambulance to Grand Mercy Hospital. I broke my hip and have a concussion.

Witness (Bystander) Kirby Stander:

I was walking to the store from my house and I saw a man ahead of me about 10 yards who was heading the same direction as me. A lot of people in our neighborhood take that path through the neighborhood and park to the shopping center. When I was almost to the start of the cross walk, the man ahead of me was about $\frac{2}{3}$ the way through it and almost to the other side of the street when an SUV came out of nowhere and hit him! The car wasn't going very fast, but I was shocked to see the pedestrian thrown as far as he was and the sound he made when the car hit him was something I will never be able to erase from my memory. It was an awful sound, followed by the screech of the SUV's brakes. The driver got out of their car and was visibly shaken. We both went to render aid to the man and I called 911 right away.

Anytown Police Department
54321 West Lookout Lane
Anytown, USA 01234
469-867-5309 Fax 469-867-5301

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



OFFICIAL CBR CRIMINAL REPO

PERSON INVESTIGATED

Name: Carson Mistep
Date of Birth: 12/06/2009
SS#: 012-34-5678
States Searched: Texas & California (multi-county)

Order Number: 3215892
Order Date: 05/25/2025
Member: 8285995

NO RECORDS FOUND

ADDITIONAL FREE SEARCHES PERFORMED

National '50-State' Sex Offender Search

National Sex Offender Public Registry provided by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ)

High-Risk Sex Offenders - All 50 States

No Records Found

Sexual predators — (including sexually violent offenders)

(Persons obtaining or seeking non-consensual sexual contact with another person and/or has committed sex crimes, such as rape or child sexual abuse)

No Records Found

Department of Corrections

(Convicted Sex Offenders who were under the supervision of the DOC)

No Records Found

Crimes Against Children

(Including kidnapping, felonious restraint and/or child abuse)
(People convicted of, found guilty of or plead guilty to committing or attempting to commit sexual offenses and other crimes against children)

No Records Found

USA Most Wanted Criminals Check

FBI Most Wanted Fugitive Search

No Records Found

US Marshals Most Wanted List

No Records Found

US Secret Service Most Wanted List

No Records Found

US Department of Public Safety Search (Not all US States are included)

No Records Found

Anytown High School Report Card

7911 Main Street
Anytown, USA 01234
469-634-5789 Fax 469-634-5790

Student Name: Carson Mistep

Principal: Cory Keen

Session: Semester 1

Date: 12/20/2024

Principal Signature: Cory Keen

SUBJECT	GRADE
English	A-
French	B+
AP Chemistry	A
AP Pre-Calc	B
Advanced Medical Terminology	A-
American Studies	A
Theater	A+
Orchestra	A+

Comments:

Great student, no discipline problems



THE WR&NGH WIZARD

WE FIX IT FASTER THAN YOU CAN SAY ABRACADABRA.

40 Privet Drive
Little Whinging, USA
00204-4444



 thewrenchwizard.com

 makethenoisegoaway@wrenchwizard.com

 972.867.5309

RECEIPT

Billed to:

Carson Mistep

123 Blumberton Drive
Everywhere, USA 01234

ORDER # 0001001
RECEIPT # 0001001
RECEIPT DATE 5-22-2025
REFERENCE # 5681

Account Number:
HEX-000MAG-IC

SERVICE	QTY	PRICE	SUBTOTAL
Replacement of front passenger side panel	1	\$170.00	\$170.00
Tire repair and replacement	2	\$200.00	\$200.00
Tune up	1	\$1200.00	\$1200.00
Recalibration of Driver Assist Technology	1	\$1200.00	\$1200.00
Repainting of vehicle	1	\$6000.00	\$6000.00

Terms and conditions :

Please send payment within 30 days of receiving this invoice. Cash, Card, or Enchanted artifacts (no cursed items... again). No personal checks from goblins accepted. Payment plans available through Gringotts.



Subtotal \$9100.00
Tax (8.25%) \$750.75

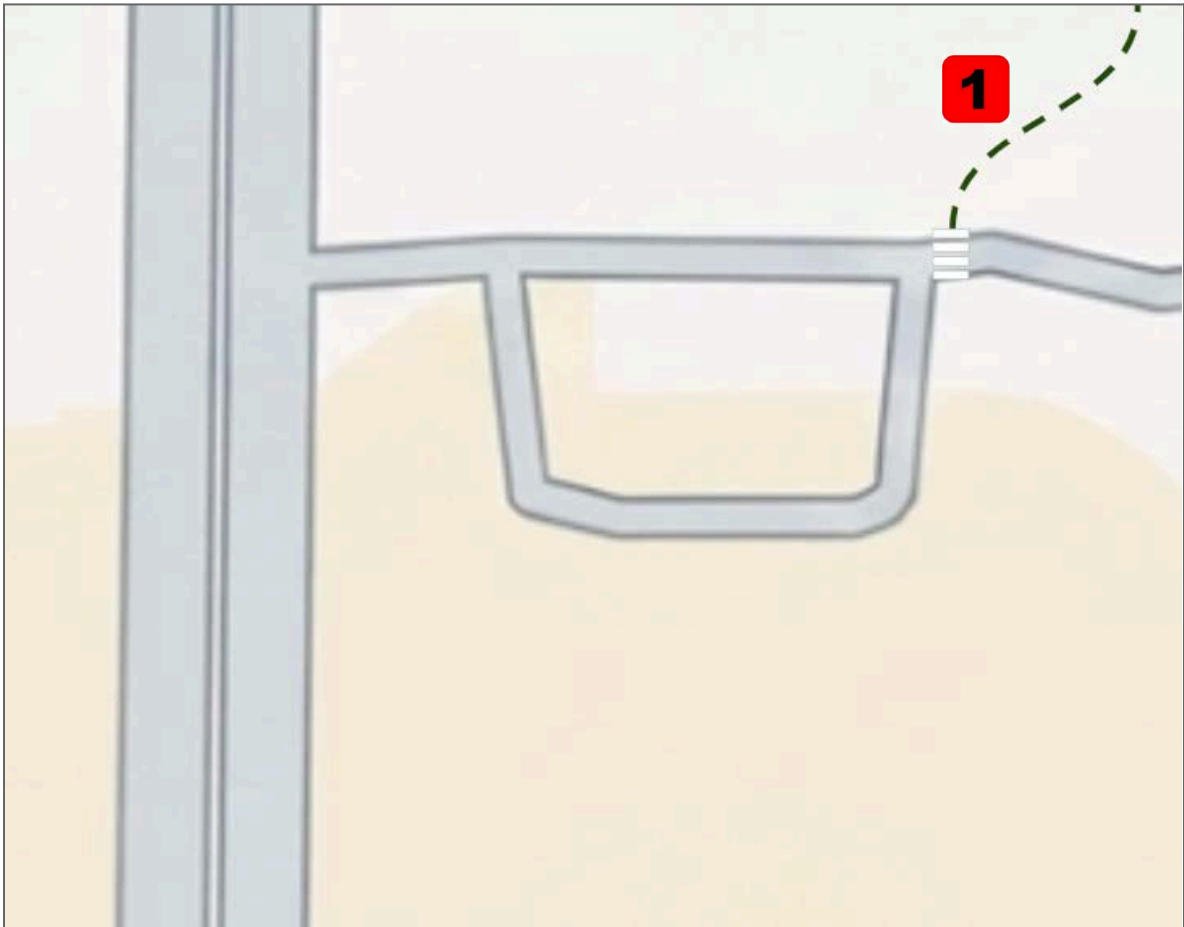
Total \$9850.75

**THANK YOU,
THE WR&NGH WIZARD**

Location of Crash Site - Aerial Maps

1

Walking path of pedestrian and crosswalk where the pedestrian was hit:



2

Arrows indicate the path of the cars involved in the crash (location of green square indicates where the pedestrian was hit):

