OVERVIEW OF LESSONS

Introductory Lesson
This lesson will provide an opportunity for facilitators to get to know the students and introduce Project LEAD to them. First, facilitators will introduce themselves and briefly review what students will learn through Project LEAD. Then, both facilitators and students will share items that give them a sense of pride. Next, students participate in a "Going to Law School" activity in which some legal terms are introduced through the Project LEAD Law Book. Finally, facilitators will provide some basic classroom rules for future Project LEAD visits.

Lesson 1: Order in the Court!
This lesson will provide an overview of the criminal justice system and the role attorneys play in criminal cases. First, students will read a play about prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges in court. Next, students will discuss the basic steps in a criminal case and take the role of prosecutors to decide the charges in hypothetical cases.

Lesson 2: The Rule of Law
This lesson introduces students to the purposes of criminal statutes and the consequences of breaking them. First, students brainstorm school rules, then they discuss the purpose for these rules and the consequences of breaking them. Next, selected students read a play to the class about students who decide to break rules. Then students identify what laws were broken in the play, the purpose of these laws, and what the consequences were.

Lesson 3: The Juvenile Justice System
This lesson provides students with an overview of the juvenile justice system. First, students discuss whether juvenile and adult offenders should be treated the same in hypothetical situations. Next, students read a play to the class that traces the steps in juvenile court proceedings. Finally, students compare the adult and juvenile justice systems.

Lesson 4: Juvenile Corrections
In this lesson, students will learn about sentencing options for juvenile offenders. A group of students reads a play to the class about the options juvenile court judges have in sentencing offenders.

Lesson 5 & 6: The Payoff
This two-day lesson shows students the financial benefits of staying in school. First, students discuss where they would like to be in 10 to 20 years in terms of jobs, housing, income, and possessions. Next, students examine and discuss a chart comparing the annual income of dropouts, high school graduates, college graduates, and those with professional degrees. Then students create budgets based on the income of each of these educational levels.

Lesson 7: Truant
This lesson focuses on the problem of truancy and its consequences. First, students discuss why they should attend school. Next, a group of students performs a play comparing two students - one who is truant and another who does well in school.

Lesson 8: School Bully
This lesson focuses on the problem of bullying and how it leads to other problems. First, students share examples of bullying they have observed or experienced. Then by taking a quiz, students learn more about the problem of bullying and its effects. Finally, students work to address bullying situations and choose options for addressing them.

Lesson 9: Down for the Neighborhood
This lesson focuses on the issue of joining gangs. First, students discuss what they know about gangs. Then, a group of students reads a play on the negative consequences of one boy's decision to join a gang. Then students role-play persuading hypothetical students not to join gangs.
Lesson 10: Staying Cool
This lesson focuses on teaching students refusal skills for at-risk behaviors such as truancy, delinquency, smoking, bullying, and drugs and alcohol use. First, students share experiences of friends trying to get them to do something that they knew was a bad idea. Next, students read a play about refusal skills. Finally, students act out scenarios demonstrating the use of refusal skills.

Lesson 11: Don’t Judge a Book by Its Cover
This lesson focuses on issues of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination. First, students read and discuss scenarios that depict instances of prejudice and discrimination. Next, pairs of students are given cards describing either a problem of discrimination or a law to address the problem. Students find the matching law and problem and participate in a closing discussion.

Lesson 12: Conflict Resolution – One Story with Three Endings
In this lesson, students will be introduced to conflict resolution. They look at three typical ways people deal with conflict: denial, confrontation and problem-solving. Students role-play to stories demonstrating denial or confrontation and then discover how the same scenarios play out using problem-solving skills.

Lesson 13: Pitfalls
This lesson focuses on two common youth crimes: theft and vandalism. First, students learn about the elements of each crime. Next, selected students present short plays to the class illustrating a specific situation where one of these crimes has taken place. After each play, the facilitator leads a guided discussion to help students recognize and describe different consequences associated with each situation. In the next lesson, students apply the refusal skills to make theft or vandalism posters to display at school.

Lesson 14: (FINAL) Comic Strip Posters
This lesson provides students with an opportunity to apply the refusal skills from Lesson 10 as they create posters showing how to avoid getting involved in the crimes of shoplifting and vandalism. Students will use a comic strip format to illustrate a scenario and the refusal skills.

Lesson 15: Alcohol, Drugs, and Consequences
This lesson focuses on drug and alcohol use and reinforces the refusal skills as students think about different consequences of using drugs and alcohol. The lesson is driven by a PowerPoint presentation that includes three plays for students to perform, as well as an activity in which pairs of students practice the refusal skills. Also contained in the PowerPoint is “Faces of Meth,” which illustrates the consequences of using drugs.

Lesson 16 & 17: Preparing for the LEAD Mock Trial
This three-lesson sequence has students prepare for and present a mock trial. In this lesson, the whole class will become jurors as they view and discuss a PowerPoint presentation that provides a simple case of brownie-snatching and familiarizes students with trial participants and procedures. The PowerPoint also introduces the concepts of innocent until proven guilty and reasonable doubt.

Lesson 18: Trial Presentation
This is the final lesson of the three lesson sequence. In this lesson, students conduct a mock trial. Facilitators should review the trial procedures with students and make the final preparations. Then, students present the trial.

Optional Lessons

Option #1: When Hate Becomes a Crime
This lesson focuses on hate crimes. First, students discuss whether there should be sentence enhancements for hate crimes. Next, students read definitions and identify examples of hate crimes. Then students decide whether hypothetical situations constitute hate crimes and, if so, whether the perpetrators should have additional time added to their sentence because they were hate crimes.

Option #2: Animal Cruelty
This lesson focuses on the problem of animal cruelty. First, students discuss why it’s important to protect animals. Next, students match human and animal emotions. Then, students work in small groups to read a scenario on animal cruelty and discuss how to help. Finally, students share and discuss their scenarios.