

Curriculum Vitae

Format: Individual

Time: 1 hour in class with homework

Description

This activity provides students with an opportunity to assess their own expertise by developing a curriculum vitae (CV).

Materials

- Tablet or laptop computer
- Documentation for the following:
 - Name
 - Employer
 - Title
 - Duties
 - Years of experience
 - Number of fires investigated
 - Courtroom testimony
 - Fire investigative/law enforcement training and education including live burns
 - Formal education
 - Professional memberships
 - Certifications and licenses
 - Books/articles published
 - Relevant subscriptions

Instructions

1. Collect the information you need.
2. Create your CV.

Instructor Notes

- Provide examples of fire investigator CVs.
- Provide template of fire investigator CV.
- Assist students in creating their CVs.
- Remind students to omit personal contact information.
- Instruct students to include most recent five years of testimony in the CV, with earlier years listed in a separate document.
- Review and provide feedback.

Presenting Investigative Findings

Format: Group

Time:

- 4 hours for in-class presentations (divided across number of groups)
- Development time is homework

Description

This activity provides students with an opportunity to practice presenting a case to a district attorney for filing criminal charges.

Materials

- 1 unique criminal case file per group

Instructions

1. As a group, thoroughly evaluate your case file.
2. Develop talking points for your section of the case.
3. Each member of the group presents a portion of the group's findings.

Instructor Notes

- Provide basic and straightforward arson scenarios.
- Invite a qualified attorney (that handles criminal cases) to participate in the presentations.
- Provide feedback and recommendations to each group after their presentation.

Courtroom Testimony

Format: Group

Time: 16 hours (divided across number of groups)

Description

This activity provides students with an opportunity to practice testifying in a legal proceeding by presenting evidence that supports their case.

Materials

- Criminal case files used in Activity 2-5
- Actual courtroom (recommended) or a room set up to simulate a courtroom
- Proper attire
- CVs
- Scripted questions for the prosecuting attorney
- CALCRIM duties of judge and jury (jury instructions) applicable to charges

Personnel

- Prosecuting attorney
 - An experienced fire investigator with courtroom experience may fill this position if a district attorney is unavailable
- Criminal defense attorney
- Judge (Instructor may fill this position)
- Jury (Students from different groups may fill these positions)

Instructions

1. Stay with your group and case file from Activity 2-5.
2. Be prepared to testify on any portion of the case.
3. Dress appropriately for court.

Instructor Notes

- Provide basic and straightforward arson scenarios.
- Set up a positive experience.
- Share jury instructions.
- Each student must experience direct examination and cross-examination.
- Students may have the case file with them while testifying.
- Provide feedback immediately after each student testifies
 - Attorneys and instructor
 - Jury (if time allows)