

Name: _____

Small group discussion

1. What are some of the responsibilities of a law enforcement officer (sheriff or police officer)?
2. Why is it necessary to pay people to protect us?
3. A major focus for law enforcement officers is to keep the roads safe. List situations where someone might either receive a ticket or be taken to jail for traffic offenses.
4. How does a law enforcement officer use math when dealing with traffic offenses?
5. List some pros and cons for pursuing a career in law enforcement.

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“To Serve and Protect”

Law enforcement officers can determine the speed of motorists by using radar or Vascar. When both an officer's and a motorist's car are moving, the officer must use math to calculate the motorist's speed.

1. Radar scenario #1: The officer's car is approaching an oncoming motorist who seems to be speeding in a 50 mph speed zone. The radar gun reads 120.46 mph (closing speed) and your squad car is going 55.5 mph (patrol speed). Use the formula below to determine how fast the motorist is traveling.

Closing speed – patrol speed = suspect speed

2. Radar scenario #2: The officer's car is traveling west and the motorist is traveling east. You believe that she is speeding in a 45 mph speed zone and use the radar gun to clock her speed. The reading shows 75.93 mph (separation speed) and your squad car is going 20.3 mph (patrol speed). Use the formula below to determine how fast the motorist is traveling.

Separation speed – patrol speed = suspect speed

3. Vascar scenario #1: Using a Vascar computer, a trooper recorded 1000 feet as the distance between two reference points. He also used Vascar to time the travel of a target vehicle between the two reference points. If the vehicle took 18 seconds to travel from one reference point to the other, and if the posted speed limit was 60 mph, was the person speeding?

Distance ÷ time = suspect speed

4. Officer serves an execution: A local resident was arrested for writing bad checks. He posted bond for \$15,000 but failed to appear in court. The bond company notified the sheriff's department and they were authorized to serve an execution, which allows them to collect the value of the bond in cash or property from the resident. The bond company has agreed to settle for 87.5% of the bond. What is the value of cash/property that the sheriff's department hopes to recover?