

Activity IV.

Justice Poster

NOTES

The purpose of this activity is to enable students to demonstrate their understanding of the abstract concept of justice.

- ★ This activity should take one class period.
- ★ Supplies: Plain paper, 8 ½” X 11” or larger; glue or tape; pens, pencils, colored pencils and/or markers.
- ★ It may be helpful to have students write the explanations of their team’s symbol on separate sheets of paper while the “artist” draws the symbol on the poster. Then they can tape or glue the text to the poster.
- ★ A sample poster is included. All of the examples on the sample poster come from the legal system, but ideas of fairness and justice from sports or current events will also work.

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The traditional symbol for justice is a blindfolded woman holding a sword and a set of scales. A contributor to Wikipedia explains “Lady Justice” this way: The blindfold shows that justice is (or should be) applied objectively regardless of the power or weakness of the individuals brought before the court. The scales represent the weighing of the strength of the supporting and opposing arguments, and the sword symbolizes the power of reason and justice.

Your task is to create an original symbol for justice that reflects your understanding of what justice means and how it works.

DIRECTIONS

- ★ Form teams of 2 – 3 people.
- ★ Design your own symbol for justice.
- ★ Draw the symbol in the middle of a piece of plain paper. The symbol must have at least 3 different elements, but like “Lady Justice” they can be combined into one picture.

1

<http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.spectator.co.nz/images/justice.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.virb.com/jrozko/blog/122589&h=691&w=425&sz=49&hl=en&start=1&um=1&tbnid=zSjErZkXfxPsgM:&tbnh=139&tbnw=85&prev=/images%3Fq%3D%2Bjustice%26svnum%3D10%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DG>

2

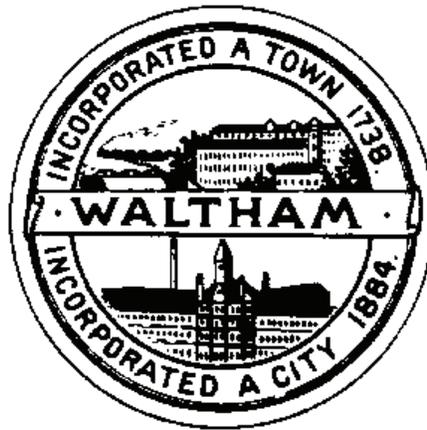
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Justice

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- ★ Another option is to design a seal that is divided into parts with a different symbol in each part. Text may also be used. A picture of the seal for the town of Waltham is shown below to use as a sample design for a justice seal.



- ★ BE SURE TO LEAVE ENOUGH ROOM AROUND YOUR PICTURE TO WRITE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
 - ⇒ An explanation of what each part of your symbol means. This is to be written in complete sentences.
 - ⇒ A “real-life” example of each part of your symbol. This example can come from your own experience, current events, books, movies, or television programs.

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SAMPLE

LADY JUSTICE

The **BLINDFOLD** shows that justice is applied objectively, regardless of the power or weakness of the people brought before the court.

EXAMPLE:

The court appoints an attorney for a defendant who is too poor to afford one.



The **SCALES** represent the weighing of supporting and opposing arguments in a court case.

EXAMPLE:

A jury weighs all the evidence in a case in order to come to a verdict.

The **SWORD** stands for the power and reason of justice.

EXAMPLE: In 1957, the Supreme Court changed school systems throughout the country and helped start the Civil Rights movement when it ruled that separate schools for different races were NOT legal in *Brown v. Board of Education*.