



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

STEM Day Lesson Plan

Lesson Plan Author(s) Names and Affiliation: Matthew Larson, Assistant Professor,
Department of Criminal Justice

Title: Do you see what I see? Understanding how eyewitnesses can make mistakes

Subject Area: Wrongful conviction

Learning Activity Description: Students will get a brief overview of the issue of wrongful conviction and be informed about how widespread the problem is. From there, they will compete in a friendly competition that forces them to briefly look at a set of 6 different photos for a few seconds and then see if they can identify the “perpetrator” of a crime in subsequent photos. As the students will learn, it’s a difficult process in which they will make mistakes. The student/group who wins the experience (that is, gets the most “identifications” right, will be given a small prize).

Lesson Activity Objective: The objective is to grow students’ understanding of wrongful conviction, in a simple way that’s accessible for this demographic, and one of the main contributors to the problem.

Lesson Activity Outcomes: Students will be able to define “wrongful conviction,” know how often it occurs in the United States, and develop an appreciation for one of the key contributors to the problem.

Materials/Supplies Listed: We will need one sheet of paper and one writing utensil for each of the students who participate in this session.

Teacher Procedures: I will oversee all elements of this session.

Preparation Time for Learning Activity: 10 minutes.

Room set-up: 10 minutes.

Group Strategies (example, group size, expected time for groups, etc.): I can take up to 30 students in the class, and groups will include 2-3 students per.

Student Products/Artifacts/work pages: None.

Assessment Criteria/Rubric: There will be a 5-7 question assessment students will fill out after.

Closing/Transition to next activity: N/A