

Miranda v. Arizona / Should Miranda Warnings be Required Police Procedure?

In this activity, you will consider the value of Miranda warning from the perspective of various interest groups. After considering these viewpoints, you will make your own decision and try to persuade others to adopt your viewpoint.

Your teacher will assign you to one of the following groups:

- Law enforcement officials
- Civil/criminal rights group
- Federal prosecutors
- Defense attorneys
- Victims' rights group
- General public

Directions:

1. Meet with the other members of your group. For the duration of this activity, set aside your personal opinion of Miranda warnings, and think about the case from the perspective of a person who is a member of your assigned group.
2. What is your position about the requirement of Miranda warnings? Consider the following:
 - Purpose of the Miranda warnings and the extent to which it is successful in achieving that goal
 - Extent to which Miranda warnings protect defendants and which defendants it protects
 - Extent to which Miranda warnings help or hinder law enforcement officials
 - The alternatives to reading the Miranda warnings
 - Consequences for police, defendants, and the general public of overturning *Miranda*
 - Costs and benefits of the *Miranda* ruling for your group
3. As a group, write an outline of your position. Each person should make a copy of this outline, as students will need their own copy for the next step.
4. You will be moved to a “jigsaw group” composed of students who represent each of the groups. Discuss your viewpoints, keeping in mind that each individual should argue from the assigned perspective. Can your new group reach a consensus about whether Miranda

warnings should be required police procedure? On what aspects of the issue do you agree? On which aspects do you disagree? All members of the group should take notes.

5. Share your group's areas of consensus and disagreement with the class.

(Optional) Extension Activity

Now that you have heard many different perspectives on the issue, you are in a position to develop your own, educated opinion regarding the requirement that suspects be read the Miranda warnings. Try to convince other members of the general public to adopt your personal viewpoint on this issue by completing one of the assignments below. In your product, clearly state and support your position.

- Write an editorial.
- Create a political cartoon.
- Write a speech to be delivered to an audience. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph in which you describe the target audience and the speech techniques used.
- Create a storyboard for a video advertisement. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph in which you explain the message, the target audience, the propaganda techniques, and the video and audio techniques used.