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AN EVALUATION OF THE SIXTH GRADE CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

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Developed by McLean County Circuit Judge W. Charles Witte, the Sixth Grade Criminal Justice Educational Project seeks to introduce area students to the criminal justice system by providing an understanding of basic procedures and fostering respect for the system. The program consists of classroom review of a criminal justice outline and a mock trial utilizing a case study/role play approach.

This evaluation examines the effectiveness of the Sixth Grade Criminal Justice Educational Project in meeting the objectives established at the program's inception. Specifically, this study measures student participants' respect for the criminal justice process and their learning of related terms and procedures. A sample of thirty sixth grade students from Oakdale Elementary School in Normal, Illinois was used to obtain data. Preliminary findings indicate that the students gained a significantly better understanding of the criminal justice system from participating in the program. The program appears to have a less substantial impact on students' respect for the criminal justice process.