

Officer Tatum | Lesson Plan

What are the goals and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer within a community?

Students will gain an understanding of the diverse roles law enforcement plays in a community, especially in protecting, serving, and upholding the rule of law. Additionally, students will explore Officer Tatum's journey and impact on the community in his role as a police officer.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain a law enforcement officer's responsibilities and goals.
- Identify the various qualities necessary to be a good law enforcement officer.
- Evaluate the importance of a law enforcement officer within a community.
- Examine how Officer Tatum demonstrates bravery and selflessness in his role as a police officer.
- Identify good safety habits citizens can practice to help local law enforcement.
- Evaluate the purpose of enforcing and following rules within a community.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Enforce:** When someone uses their authority to ensure the rules are followed, everyone does what they should do.
- **Law Enforcement Officer:** Someone with a special job keeping communities safe and ensuring people follow the rules and laws.
- **Community:** A group of people who live in the same area who may share common values and goals and are connected by social, cultural, or economic ties.
- **Rule of Law:** the fundamental concept in which all members of society, including government officials and law enforcement, are subject to the same laws, ensuring that laws are applied evenly and protect fundamental rights.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, Law Enforcement, Life Lessons

What You'll Need

- Video: [Officer Tatum: Protecting and Serving our Community](#)
- Worksheet: *Officer Tatum* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Initiate a class discussion about the topic of rules. Prompt students to think about the rules they must follow at school, at home, and in the community. Take time to elaborate

Scan to watch episode:



on the meaning of “community” if necessary. Encourage students to share what they think the purpose of having rules is, what rules they think are important, and which rules they think are unnecessary or hard to understand. Invite students to share examples aloud and brainstorm together.

2. Display a copy of the *Officer Tatum Worksheet* and pass out individual worksheets to each student.
3. Point out the Warm-Up Activity and allow students time to complete this section individually or in small groups. Invite students to share responses with their peers.
4. Introduce the enduring question, “*What are the goals and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer within a community?*” Invite students to share what they know. Explain to students that the video is about a real police officer, Officer Brandon Tatum, who served on the police force in Tuscon, Arizona.
5. Go over the rest of the worksheet as a class so students know what to listen for during the video.
6. Set the stage for the video by highlighting the theme of bravery and the importance of a police officer’s job. Encourage students to look for ways throughout the video of Officer Tatum choosing to be brave and selfless to serve his community best.

Watch and Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Watch the video as a class.
2. Assist students with completing the worksheet alongside the video, encouraging note-taking and active listening.
3. Pause throughout the video to allow students to answer questions—especially short answer responses. If necessary, model short answer responses, restate the question, and write a complete sentence.

Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Allow students time to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as a formative assessment or use a class discussion.
3. Ask students to share their responses to the “Making Connections” section.
4. Conclude with an open-ended prompt for students to reflect on what they've learned about law enforcement and the importance of rules and following rules.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.