

## Explore *Criminal* Podcast

This podcast series looks critically at individual criminal proceedings within our legal system and asks thought-provoking questions to help audiences formulate their own opinions.

### What Is a Podcast?

As the fastest growing type of media, podcasts provide endless hours of entertainment and education on a range of different topics. Like radio shows, podcasts are a way to learn more about subjects, events, or stories in an audio format. There are many ways to listen to podcasts, and they're usually free. You can use any browser on your computer to listen, or you can also use a tablet or smartphone.

### Prepare to Listen

While listening to a podcast, it's important to practice active listening. Try to find a quiet place where you won't be interrupted. Make sure you have a way to take notes, either on paper or digitally. Record any details you hear that may be of importance. Listen to the whole episode at least once, all the way through. Afterward, you may want to go back and listen for additional bits of information you were unable to write down.

### Listen to the Podcast

[Criminal: Episode # 46](#)

**Note:** HMH is not responsible for the content of third-party websites.

### Analyze the Podcast

After listening to the episode, consider the different positions you've heard regarding keeping exotic animals as pets. Reflect on the information you've gathered. Then, write any additional details that may have come to mind. If needed, listen to the episode a second time for more information. Use your notes to fill out the *Controversial Issue* graphic organizer on the second-to-last page of this activity. Choose the position you agree with and list all of the arguments that support it as well as the counterarguments.

## Pick Your Position

Next, use the graphic organizer titled *Persuasive Planner* to formulate an outline of your position. It may be necessary to conduct additional research to help support the stance you chose as well as to understand the opposition's argument. Though you won't be writing the entire argument, it's still important to keep the following points in mind when constructing your outline.

### **A strong argument . . .**

- reflects a thorough understanding of the issue
- includes a precise claim that states the writer's viewpoint
- supports the claim with logical reasons
- provides relevant and sufficient evidence
- acknowledges opposing claims and refutes them with counterclaims
- organizes reasons and evidence logically
- maintains a formal style and an objective tone

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

**CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE**

Position statement:	
Supporting Arguments	Counterarguments

# PERSUASIVE PLANNER

