Jacksonfield County has a small, peaceful high school right in the center of the county. The county council wants to make sure that the school stays safe and peaceful. Recently, the county has been experiencing an increase in vandalism, burglaries and shootings. The members of the council do not want the school disturbed by these crimes. There are very few fights at the school and most of the students get along. The council enacts a law requiring that at all the entrances to school facilities the following sign must be posted:

**NO WEAPONS AT SCHOOL**

**Directions:** The law seems clear, but some disputes have arisen over its interpretation – mostly because of disagreements over what the law says (the letter of the law) and the legislative intent (the intention of the law.)

Look at the cases shown on the back of this handout. For each case, your group should discuss and decide:

- Was a weapon involved?
- Does the action described violate the law?
- What should be done?

After discussing each situation, record your response. Be sure to write down reasons for your answers.

1. Mr. Gonzalez is a teacher and he lives a long way from the school. He is leaving for a hunting trip right after school and brings his hunting bow to school with him.

2. Armed guards arrive to pick up money from the school bank at 5 p.m. To reach the vault, the guards need to walk through the school hallways to the cafeteria.
3. Alex, an honor student, brings in her dad’s new pistol to show her friends. She keeps the safety lock on and does not let anyone touch the gun.

4. An armed robbery is taking place near school. The police bike through the school stadium during a football game since it is the quickest way to get to the scene of the crime. All of the police have sidearms.

5. For Halloween, juniors Pablo and Derek dress up as martial artists and bring in fake nunchakus and fake throwing stars.

6. Ms. Julie Childs, the culinary arts teacher, hands out 15 knives for her students to use to create chicken cheddar chunks.

7. Ms. Ursula Grant’s history class has been studying the Civil War, and one student brings in the saber that his ancestor used in the Battle of Gettysburg.

8. Axel wears a shirt with the name of the band “Pistols n’ Petals” on the front and “My Weapon of Choice” on the back.