**The Impact of Public Opinion Quiz**

1. What the majority of the public thinks about a topic is called?

2. What is the branch of government that makes laws that the court system rules on; determines what is or is not a crime, thus determining what cases the court gets to decide on; and passes laws that may affect the way courts function?

3. Who are the elected positions for each county who are the ones that make the ultimate decision about whether or not to prosecute someone or how they should prosecute?

4. Who are people who are paid by companies or organizations to represent their interests to lawmakers and influence the way lawmakers vote?

5. Who may not want to face scrutiny for their decisions, especially if they had already prejudged the case or know how their friends and family members would think about the case?

6. The judge may lean on this if a similar issue has been ruled on before.

7. How is public opinion measured?

a.

b.

c.

8. Who are or can be elected officials that must vote or decide a certain way to keep their constituents happy, so they can be reelected?

a.

b.

9. How do legislatures affect the court system?

a.

b.

c.

10. What kind of prosecution system have we had in the past where the victim had to do the prosecuting?

11. Since the 1960s, what has society placed more emphasis on?

12. Who focuses on self-control regarding individual privacy matters?

13. Who values self-expression?

14. Who demands social control in the commercial sphere?

15. Who opposes government restrictions on the marketplace?

16. Who defends untempered self-expression in the commercial sphere for employers and producers?

17. Who values individual privacy such as matters of religious or sexual preferences?

The following are descriptions of the factors of influence.

18. Because of someone’s past he or she may react to an issue in a way that others would not

19. How social class, sex, race, age, or celebrity status can influence a case

20. Those who know them may have a certain opinion about how the case should be handled

21. Sometimes the producers have a bias and are trying to appeal to people’s emotions about the topic while not including all of the facts; they may cover the topic a certain way but exclude facts and try to influence what the public thinks about it; producers and actors are in the business to make money and are more concerned about entertainment value instead of making sure all of the facts are right

22. The more money an effort has, the better representation and influence they have with lawmakers

23. Many people form their beliefs about issues based on this, and a lot of these types have common beliefs on the same issues

24. They may not realize the impact certain laws will have, even on their own way of life, until after they are passed; they have a tendency to see themselves as potential victims instead of potential suspects of crime; they may have the belief that prisoners do not do anything in prison but watch television, and don’t serve their whole prison sentence; and they may want harsher penalties on crimes that statistically are not as bad as the media claims.