

Chapter 5

5.1 Critical Thinking: Why do you think it is important that law enforcement agencies have limited authority?

Some possible answers are to prevent a duplication of efforts, to avoid competition over cases, and to make it clear to citizens who they can contact for help.

5.2 Critical Thinking: Do you think any of the early English systems of law enforcement (i.e., tithing) could work today? Why or why not?

Specific answers will vary. You should make a connection between the tithing and constable-watch systems with community policing, and you may agree that communities need to be more involved if they want to solve crime problems.

5.3 Critical Thinking

1. Which of the major changes in the organization and operation of police departments listed on page 169 do you think brought about the most significant change? Why?

You can cite the development of professional municipal and state police, the reforms brought about by Vollmer, the overall tougher hiring standards, and the increasing emphasis on education to help professionalize the ranks.

2. What do you think are the key benefits of community policing? Why?

Community policing gets the public involved in preventing crime, builds bonds and trust between police and communities, and helps police call on the community to help them solve social issues that cause crime.

5.4 Critical Thinking

1. What do you think are the pros and cons of working at the local, state, and federal levels of law enforcement?

Your answers should reflect an understanding of the duties, risks, and rewards of working at each of these levels. They should also consider that some local police agencies are larger and more complicated than others, some state police agencies have broader authority than others, and some federal agencies (such as the FBI or DEA) encounter more violent crime than others do.

2. Do you think that any one of the three major areas of law enforcement (local, state, federal) is more prestigious? Why?

Answers will vary depending on your personal interests. Some people take a top-down approach and place federal law enforcement at the top, followed by state and then local law enforcement.

5.5 Critical Thinking

1. What do you think are some of the benefits and drawbacks of being a private security officer?

Introduction to Criminal Justice 3/e
CRITICAL THINKING ANSWER KEY

You should have an understanding of how security work can differ significantly from policing. Pros and cons include, among other things, job security and generally lower risks of danger.

2. Do you think that stricter qualification standards should be established for private security personnel? Why or why not?

Stricter qualifications are probably necessary. Regardless of your answer, be sure to provide reasons for your opinion.