

Catalyst Icebreaker | Instructions

1. Attached is a list of “law” movies and related clues to share with the students. *Do not share the film title with your Catalyst Mentees.*
2. Explain to your mentees that their task is to discern from the clues which two films are being described. If your mentees get stumped you can give them some additional clues.
3. Once the two films have been guessed or announced by you, hold a discussion addressing these two points:
 - a. How were attorneys or the practice of law depicted in the films?
 - b. Based on your experience, how realistic were these depictions?
 - c. **BONUS QUESTION:** Was there a film, book or play that inspired you to become an attorney?

Catalyst 2014 Ice Breaker Movie Selections

- **To Kill A Mockingbird (1962)**
 - Narrated by the daughter of a lawyer in 1930's Alabama
 - The lawyer accepts alternative forms of payment from his clients, if they can't afford to pay with money
 - The lawyer defends an African-American man in a controversial case
 - The defendant is found guilty, despite evidence that he physically could not have committed the crime due to him being a cripple
- **My Cousin Vinny (1992)**
 - After shoplifting from a store before a clerk there is shot, the two main characters are charged with murder.
 - The titular lawyer has no trial experience; he passed the Bar exam after six failed attempts.
 - The protagonist lawyer initially appears in court wearing biker leathers, but later returns in a secondhand suit.
- **Inherit the Wind (1960)**
 - Based on a true story, the defendant in the case represented is being charged with violating the law by teaching Darwin's theory of evolution to his students in 1925
 - The prosecuting attorney in the case represented becomes so flustered by the verdict, that his stomach ruptures and he dies in the courtroom
 - The prosecutor's main defense comes from the Bible
- **A Few Good Men (1992)**
 - Covers the court-martial of two Marines who murdered another Marine at Guantanamo
 - The defense lawyer wants to plea bargain, but the defendants refuse
 - Uses the phrase "code red"
 - Defendants are found "not guilty" but they are "dishonorably discharged"
- **Chicago (2002)**
 - The main character convinces her husband to cover for her murder, but he changes his mind in court and she's sent to prison

- The main character enjoys the notoriety that her charges have brought her, so she fakes a pregnancy
- After released, her husband tries to get back together with her, but she rejects him
- She later teams up with her rival from prison, they become successful stage performers together
- **The Paper Chase (1973)**
 - The main character throws up in the bathroom after his first class at Harvard Law School
 - The main character begins dating a young woman who turns out to be his current law professor's divorced daughter
 - The main character's law professor attempts to expel the him from law school, but after profanely insulting him, the professor changes his mind
 - To study for law school final exams, the main character and his friend book a hotel room for three days and just study.
- **Legally Blonde (2001)**
 - The main character started law school because she wanted her ex-boyfriend back
 - The main character ends up winning the case
 - In the case being tried, Liposuction is the alibi
 - An older man is murdered by his daughter on accident
 - The case being tried is won due to the defense attorney's knowledge of hair perms.
- **Erin Brockovich (2001)**
 - The Pacific Gas & electric Company is the protagonist
 - The main character ending up working for the lawyer who represented her
 - Groundwater was contaminated
 - Involved a class action
- **Rainman (1988)**
 - One of main characters failed bar exam 6 times
 - Danny Glover portrays the judge presiding over the case
 - The main character tried one case then left practice to teach law
 - The waitress husband, who is physically abusive, is beaten to death