Connecting the Separate Powers Lesson Handout (Grades 4-6)

He Does It All

You've just turned sixteen and have learned to drive. After school one day, your mother asks you to return some books to the library. You park carefully in front of the library, making sure there are no "No Parking" signs. Once the books are dropped off, you return to your car and find a police officer writing out a ticket.

Role Play

You: What did I do wrong, Officer?

Officer: You can't park here.

You: But there isn't a "No Parking" sign.

Officer: I just made it "No Parking."
You: But you can't do that.

Officer: I can now. You're under arrest.

You: Arrest? How can I be arrested when I didn't break the law? Officer: You did break the law—my law. You are under arrest.

You: What happens now?

Officer: I try you.

You: Try me! You're not a judge!

Officer: I am now. You're guilty. I fine you \$25 and costs.

You: How much are the costs?

Officer: Another \$25. You: But I am not guilty.

Officer: Pay me.

This strategy is adapted from the Utah Law-Related Education Elementary Lesson Plan Book, and is reprinted with the permission of the Utah Law-Related Education Program.

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