



Federal Courts’ National Educational Outreach that  
Involves, Informs, Inspires, and Ignites

# YOU BE THE JUDGE: FACTORS CONSIDERED IN SENTENCING



This is a teaching tool that simplifies key points for students.  
Find more information in the educational resources section  
of **uscourts.gov**

## GENERAL FACTORS CONSIDERED IN SENTENCING



### *Character*

- As evidenced by actions at the scene



### *Personal History*

- Age
- Family
- Education/Intellectual Capacity
- Medical/Psychological Health



### *Nature of the Offense*

- Characteristics of the Crime
- Intention
- Premeditation



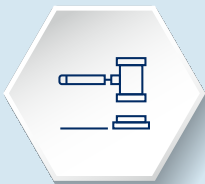
### *Punishment*

- Just Desserts



### *Rehabilitation*

- Likelihood of Change



### *Just Sentence*

- Proportionate to the Severity of the Crime
- Most Appropriate Option of the Available Alternatives



### *Restitution*

- Attempt to Remedy/Make Whole



### *Deterrence*

- For the Individual and the Public



### *Public Safety*

- Taking a Dangerous Person Off the Streets
- Preventing Future Crimes