

Nebraska Court Case Research Classroom Handout

How to Find Real Facts Using the JUSTICE Court Case Search System

Why Court Records Matter

Public court records allow students and citizens to verify real facts instead of relying on rumors, social media posts, secondhand stories or even the newspapers who don't do the work and check sources. Nebraska makes trial-court records public because transparency is essential for civic trust.

Court records show:

- Case summaries
- Parties involved
- Offense information (criminal cases)
- Court costs and payments
- Register of actions (timeline of filings, hearings, and orders)
- Document images (for many cases filed after April 16, 2008)

Why this matters:

- Prevents misinformation
 - Shows how government and courts work
 - Builds civic literacy
 - Helps students understand decisions and evidence
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Understanding the JUSTICE Court Case System Search

The JUSTICE Court Case Search system provides access to **criminal, civil, traffic, juvenile, and probate cases** filed in all 93 Nebraska county and district courts.

Students can search cases by:

- Party name
- Court type
- Case type
- County
- Year
- Judge

- Attorney
- Judgment date
- Case number

Cost to Search for Cases:

- Case information in the statewide trial case management system known as JUSTICEfree at any courthouse kiosk or law library, including the [Nebraska State Library](#), UNL's [Schmid Law Library](#), and Creighton's [Klutznick Law Library](#)
 - One-time online name search (up to 30 cases): \$17
 - Subscriber account: \$100/year
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How to Perform a Basic Search

1. Go to the official Nebraska JUSTICE search page:
<https://www.nebraska.gov/justicecc/ccname.cgi>
2. Choose One-Time Court Case Search or use the general search options.
3. Enter the party name or case number.
4. Review the list of cases returned.
5. Click into a case to see:
 - Case details
 - Parties
 - Court costs
 - Register of actions
 - Document images (if available)

6. Read the case documents — this is where the *actual facts* live.

Tip: Avoid over-filtering unless you get more than 30 results. Too many filters can hide relevant cases.

How to Read a Case File

Look for:

- **Complaint/Petition** — this is what the case is about. A lot of times there will be an amended complaint make sure to look for that document too.
- **Orders** — what the judge makes decisions about during the case.
- **Motions** — what each side asked for during the case.
- **Register of actions** — timeline of events in the case, tells what is going on
- **Final judgment** — the outcome of the case – could be many years before this happens.

This helps students understand not just *what* happened, but *why* it happened.

Classroom Activity

Use this real Nebraska case for practice: Case Number: D02CI250004233

Direct link to the case search page:

<https://www.nebraska.gov/justicecc/ccname.cgi>

Activity Instructions:

1. Enter the case number: **D02CI250004233**
2. Review the case summary.
3. Answer the following:
 - What is the case about?
 - Who are the parties?
 - What documents were filed?
 - What orders did the judge issue?
 - How do the official records differ from what you heard from others?
 - When do you think there will be a final outcome?

Note: You can find the [updated information for the case here](#) so you do not have to pay – recommend having the students go to the court house or law library and pull to case documents.

Civics Reflection

Write a short reflection on:

- Why public records matter
 - How transparency protects communities
 - How misinformation spreads when people don't check facts
 - Why "Stop the Take" work to stop rumor-based narratives is a civic responsibility?
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Teacher Notes

This handout is designed for:

- Civics classes
- Government courses
- Media literacy units
- Community education programs

Encourage students to compare **rumor vs. record** to understand how facts anchor responsible citizenship.