

## A Capital Concern

### Purpose

Students will be reminded about the importance of capitalizing proper nouns, first words in sentences and greetings, months and days, titles, and initials in people's names.

### Materials

*For the teacher:* chalk, chalkboard, text from classroom books  
*For the students:* chart paper, colored pencils, copies of Black Line Master (BLM) *A Capital Offense*

### Activity

#### A. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Using a poster chart or the chalkboard, list the following headings: proper names, greetings, months, days of the week, titles, initials of people, and words at the beginning of sentences.
2. Explain each category to the students, so they understand that these words must be capitalized.
3. Ask students to suggest examples that correspond to the headings you have created. Write examples on the chalkboard or on the poster chart.
4. Display the work in the classroom.

#### B. Activity

1. Explain to students that they will make a chart of their own, using chart paper and colored pencils.
2. Ask students to divide their paper into seven sections, which represent the seven categories they learned, using a different colored pencil for each category.
3. Have students generate two original examples for each category.

#### C. Close the Activity

Have the students apply what they have learned in the activity by completing the BLM *A Capital Offense*.

EXTENDING  
THE



ACTIVITY

Write sentences that need to be corrected by adding capital letters on the chalkboard. Have students volunteer to make the corrections.

connecting  
across the  
curriculum



#### Social Studies

Have students go through geography and history texts and make a list of proper nouns that are capitalized.


Standards Link  
2.4.7


## Questions for Review

---

### Basic Concepts and Processes

After the activity, ask students the following questions:

 Can you name some categories of words that are capitalized?

 How do you know when you should capitalize a word?

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## A Capital Offense

Directions: This story is very hard to read because there are no capital letters. Go through the story and underline letters that should be capitalized.

### mr. miller and corky

there is a big dog on our block named corky. he is always out playing every day of the week, monday through friday. when I see him, I always say "hi, corky! get down! get down!"

if I don't do that, he will jump up on me to say "hello." that is friendly of him. but he is big. he can knock you down. he is always running through puddles, and he always has wet feet. he jumps up and gets your clothes dirty. poor miss minnie ellis was on her way to church on saturday. she had to go home because corky got her good clothes too dirty to wear to church.

mr. miller needs to keep corky inside a fence. or maybe he can teach his dog to wipe its feet!

# A Capital Offense

## Teacher Directions

---

Distribute the BLM *A Capital Offense*, and ask a student to read the directions for the BLM aloud. Complete the first paragraph as a class, and have students finish the exercise independently.

## Answer Key

---

This activity has 30 capitalization errors.

Mr. Miller and Corky

There is a big dog on our block named Corky. He is always out playing every day of the week, Monday through Friday. When I see him, I always say, “Hi, Corky! Get down! Get down!”

If I don't do that, he will jump up on me to say “Hello.” That is friendly of him, but he is big. He can knock you down. He is always running through puddles, and he always has wet feet. He jumps up and gets your clothes dirty. Poor Miss Minnie Ellis was on her way to church on Saturday. She had to go home because Corky got her good clothes too dirty to wear to church.

Mr. Miller needs to keep Corky inside a fence. Or maybe he can teach his dog to wipe its feet!