Technology and Justice: Engaging Court Participants Through E-learning

Click each offense and then choose whether you think it's a civil or criminal charge.

If your charge is listed, try it first—you already know it's civil.



Shubha Bala - Director of Technology Emma Vandervest - Technology Project Manager

Agenda

- 1. Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA)
- 2. E-learning & Procedural Justice
- 3. Planning the Details
- 4. Designing

Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA)

Background

Support safer neighborhoods, reduce arrests, and lessen the impact of low-level enforcement

Offer New Yorkers issued civil summons the option to perform community service instead of paying a fine

Common Violations

Public consumption of alcohol

Public urination

Unauthorized presence in the park after dark

Littering / spitting

Unlawful vending

Resolving Tickets

- Can pay the fine online or in person
- Can come in for a hearing
- In violation and do not want to / cannot pay the fine → community service

Community Service Options

- Individual counseling
- Facilitated session on civic engagement
- On-site community service
- Digital / e-learning module

Digital module - when it helps

- Implementable in multiple languages
- Avoids wait
- Different learning styles
- Cost effective

Digital module - when it doesn't help

- Listening offering specific resources
- Group session benefits
- Giving voice

E-learning and Procedural Justice



Understanding

- The process
- Why? Community impact
- Resources in New York City



Respect

- Language used
- Explaining clearly
- Approach understanding a variety of life circumstances



Voice

Difficult!

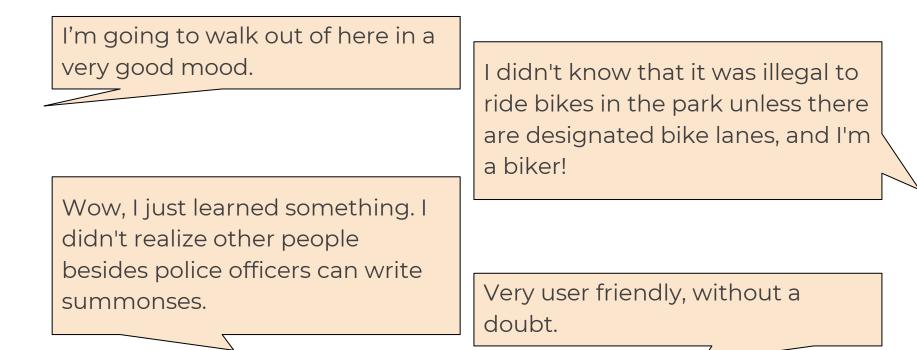
- Asking multiple choice questions
- Considering their perspective



Neutrality

- Offered to everyone who is eligible
- E-learning itself is constant
- The consequences of violation

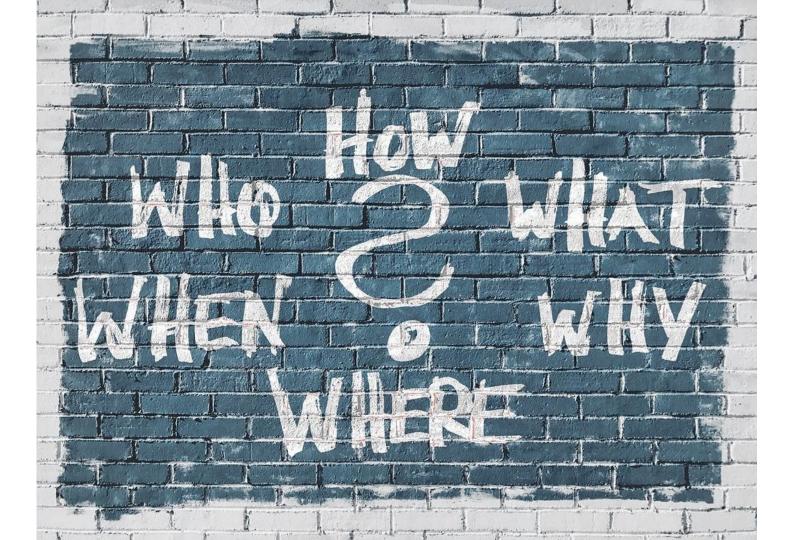
Feedback - Users



Procedural Justice and Tech

Technology provides additional opportunities for Procedural Justice.

Planning - the Details



Who?

- Demographics?
- Technical literacy?
- Abilities?
- Languages?
- Cultural backgrounds?
- Feelings / attitudes?
- Knowledge about criminal and civil justice process?

When (phase one)?

- After coming in-person to OATH
- Potentially after having hearing to contest violation
- After doing intake with intake coordinator
- Physically located near the intake coordinator
- Concludes with check-in with intake coordinator

When (phase two)?

• After receiving a summons, they can do it at home, at a library, community center, etc.

Lessons learned

- 1. Accessibility
- 2. Mobile
- 3. "Fun" feeling game vs respectful

Things to Consider.... Online?

Pros:

- Lack of commuting
- Can be done anytime (work, child care, etc)

Cons:

- Support and compatibility
- Loss of in-person benefits

Things to Consider.... Pricing?

- Number of interactive "trees"
- Level of animation photos, animation, still versus moving
- Languages
- Length
- Compatibility
- Mobile-friendly