**13.4: Types of Laws and Juries**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Using the online textbook, open Topic 13, Lesson 4: The Texas State Courts. Read Texts 1 & 2 to answer the following questions.

1. Define criminal law- applies when a law has been broken.

2. Define civil law- applies to disputes between private parties- but no law is broken.

3a. Define common law- Judge made law developed over time. Each decision creates a precedent.

3b. What is a precedent? Sets a standard for later judges to follow when a similar dispute arises.

i.e. Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896)- “separate but equal.” Justified segregation.

Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education (1954)- “separate is NOT equal.”

4. What is a felony? A serious crime with heavy fines or imprisonment.

5. What is a misdemeanor? A lesser crime with small fines or short jail time.

6a. What is the purpose of a Grand Jury? Decides if there is enough evidence to have a trial

b. What is an indictment? When a person is officially charged with committing a crime.

7. What is the purpose of a petit jury? Trial jury. Reaches a verdict of guilty or not guilty.

8. Most processes of government must be open to public scrutiny (open to the public), but grand juries work in secret. What might be an advantage of the grand jury process not being open to the public?

Grand Juries meet in secret so private information does not become unnecessarily public. Protect the rights of people who are not indicted.

Grand Juries also save time and money by not having unnecessary.

9a. What is an injunction? A court order to stop something before it can do harm. It generally stops something that is not illegal, but could cause irreversible damage, like to an endangered species.

b. Describe a situation in which someone might seek an injunction. Explain why. Use a different example than the one used in the book. Notice: A restraining order is NOT and injunction.