

**QTC: What are the key phrases for each of these definitions?**

**AR:** Necessary: reasonably effective alternative, use of force, appeared to exist, reasonable, lawful purpose.

Deadly Force: intentional application, firearms, any other means, reasonably likely to cause death or serious physical injury.

**Say to Class:** Let's first examine the definition of Necessary from RCW 9A.16.010. It is packed full of important legal principles. This little definition is like the "rule book" for using force. These rules apply to us (the police) and also any citizen using force.

The first key phrase is "reasonably effective alternative."

**QTC: What does this phrase mean?**

**AR:** Other choices/options were available, but none were as good.  
to We considered other choices, but the one we used seemed to be the best.  
Other choices may have been OK, but not as effective.

**QTC: Is this saying that there were NO other alternatives?**

**AR:** NO. There may in fact have been other alternatives – but this one was the most effective.

**Say to Class:** The next key phrase is "use of force."

**QTC: What does this phrase mean?**

**AR:** This definition is specifically about using force.

**QTC: What is a "use of force"? What does it mean in every-day**

**AR:** Hurting another person.  
Causing pain or injury – even killing a person.  
grabbing Physically making another person do something (i.e.: a person and throwing him out of a building).

**Say to Class:** The next key phrase is "appeared to exist."

**QTC: Appeared to whom?**

**AR:** To the officer/person using the force.

**QTC:** **What does this phrase mean?**

**AR:** An officer/person will be judged on what options appeared to be available at the time.

**QTC:** **So could there have been other (even better) options available?**

**AR:** Maybe. But the officer/person using force will be held to what they were aware of – not what actually existed.

**Say to Class:** The next key word is “reasonable.” Oh man! There’s that little “R” word! We’ve seen that before. In this context, it means much more than “OK” or “acceptable.”

**QTC:** **Is the mention of the word “reasonable” in this definition referencing some standard?**

**AR:** Yes. The Reasonable Officer standard or the Reasonable Person standard, depending on who’s using the force.

**QTC:** **A comparison is being made between the officer/person using the force and whom?**

**AR:** Other reasonable officers/people in his same shoes.

The majority of people with his same experience and training would have acted similarly.

**Say to Class:** The last key phrase is “lawful purpose.”

**QTC:** **What’s the significance of this phrase?**

**AR:** It requires that the use of force is for some legal reason.

The force is being lawfully used.

It all has to be for a legitimate purpose – not just for fun, revenge, etc.

Recruit responses may include the following:

lawful            To use only the amount of force needed to complete the task at hand.

actions        No better option at the time was known to me, and the actions I took were appropriate to handle the situation legally.

the            The Officer made the best choice considering the totality of circumstances in the situation, and used the appropriate amount of physical force to legally accomplish the lawful action.

done.        The best legal choice you saw at the time, to get the job done.

situation.    There was no other choice than the one I used and the amount of force I used was lawful for the immediate situation.