



Mock Trial 7-9 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Trial Process

Students learn about how court trials are conducted, including who the people involved in them are.

2 Court System

Students learn about the various levels of courts, including district, appellate, and the supreme court, as well as juvenile courts.

3 Constitutional Rights

Students learn about the amendments in the Bill of Rights which pertain to protections of the accused.

Course Topics

1 Courtroom Members and Vocabulary

Students learn who is involved in court rooms, and they are introduced to the unique vocabulary used during trials.

2 Types of Cases

Students learn about the differences between criminal and civil cases.

3 Court System

Students learn about the various types of courts used for different sorts of cases.

4 Elements of a Lawsuit

Students learn about the use of evidence and witnesses in a court case, including the selection of a judge.

5 Jury

Students learn about the selection of a trial jury and about how they deliberate and declare a verdict.

6 Bill of Rights

Students learn about the amendments of the Constitution that provide protection to those who are accused of a crime.

7 Statements and Arguments

Students learn about the statements and arguments made by lawyers during a trial.

8 Precedent

Students learn about the role of precedents in deciding the verdict for a case.

9 Mock Trials

Students participate in trial simulations to gain a better understanding of how court cases are handled.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Lawyers

Students learn about the role that lawyers play in a courtroom.

Court Background

Students learn the role of courts in our society and why mediators are necessary for legal disputes.

People in the Courtroom

Students learn about the people present during a court trial and about their jobs, with substantial emphasis on the role of the jury.

Court Vocabulary

Students learn about the terminology commonly used during court cases.

Common Law

Students learn about the features of English law which continue to impact our practice of law.

Criminal and Civil Cases

Students learn about the differences between criminal and civil cases.

Burden of Proof

Students learn how the concept of the burden of proof differs between criminal and civil cases.

Small Claims Court

Students prepare for small claims cases, in which they act as a plaintiff or defendant.

Day 2

Types of Courts

Students learn about the various types of courts that handle cases.

Trial and Appellate Courts

Students learn how court cases can be appealed and which courts hear those appealed cases.

Federal and State Courts

Students learn about the court systems at federal and state levels.

Juvenile Courts

Students learn about cases involving those under the age of 18, and the role of a court in these cases. They discuss the possibility of trying children as adults for serious crimes.

Judge Selection

Students learn how judges are selected for the various types of courts.

Steps of a Lawsuit

Students learn the process a case goes through until a verdict is reached.

Accusing the Defendant

Students learn how an accused person is brought to court after a crime or wrong is committed.

Pre-Trial Proceedings

Students learn about the events that take place before a trial begins.

Trial Proceedings and Appeals

Students learn the events that occur during a trial and how an appeal can be filed.

Evidence

Students learn about how evidence is used in a case, along with different types of evidence that can be presented.

Witnesses

Students learn about the role of witnesses in a trial and how they are questioned.

Objections

Students learn about the objections that an attorney may raise against a witness.

Witness Examination

Students use model scenarios to practice examining witnesses as attorneys.

Day 3**Jury Selection**

Students learn how a jury is selected and about the voir dire process.

Twelve Angry Men

Students view the film, Twelve Angry Men, and discuss the concepts in it.

Examination with an Exhibit

Students practice questioning a witness in a case where an exhibit is part of the evidence.

Day 4**Jury Selection Simulation**

Students act as potential jurors who will be selected by other students acting as attorneys to appear in a trial.

Day 5**Bill of Rights**

Students learn about the background of the Bill of Rights and the amendments that relate to court trials.

Opening Statements and Closing Arguments

Students learn about the particular points made by each side of a trial at the beginning and end of the trial.

Trial Simulation

Students participate in a simulated trial to practice using opening statements and closing arguments.

Day 6**Fourth Amendment Background**

Students learn more about the Fourth Amendment which will play a large role in the upcoming mock trial.

Search and Seizure

Students learn about the use of warrants in searches, including instances where warrants are not needed.

Civil Trial

Students conduct a civil trial to practice using the knowledge they have learned.

Mock Trial Overview

Students learn about the mock trial they will participate in on the last day of the session.

Day 7

Precedents

Students learn about the role precedents play in our legal system.

Trial with Demonstrative Evidence

Students participate in a trial that involves demonstrative evidence to prepare for the upcoming mock trial.

Mock Trial Introduction

Students are introduced to the facts and characters in the mock trial they will participate in at the end of the week.

Role Assignments

Students are assigned roles for the upcoming mock trial.

Day 8

Trial Preparation

Students prepare for the mock trial they will hold on the final day of the session.

Motion Preparation

Students prepare for the pre-trial motion hearing they will hold the following day.

Day 9

Motion Hearing

Students hold a pre-trial motion hearing to determine whether certain evidence may be used in the upcoming trial.

Final Trial Preparation

Students complete preparations for the mock trial which will take place the following day.

Day 10

Mock Trial

Students conduct a full-length mock trial which they have spent the past week preparing for.

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