



## 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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